

Job scheme for 10,000 to fight crime

A Government scheme to pay 10,000 offenders £60 a week, funded by the Home Office and the Manpower Services Commission, will be announced later this month. The purpose is to tackle the links between lack of jobs and crime. Rising unemployment has led to an increase of 20 per cent over two years in crimes involving young people.

Pym's miss

Mr Francis Pym, Foreign Secretary, has dropped plans to visit Saudi Arabia during his forthcoming Gulf tour. The Saudis made it clear he was unwelcome after Downing Street's refusal to meet an Arab League delegation including the PLO.

Court vigil

Twenty women were continuing a vigil which they began on New Year's Day outside Newbury Magistrates' Court, in Berkshire, in protest at the arrest of women from the Greenham Common peace camp.

Teachers' plea

The Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association, Britain's third largest teachers' union, says that parents and children who assault teachers should be prosecuted. It alleges inadequate support for victims from their local education authorities.

THE TIMES

The Times returns today after an industrial dispute which caused the loss of eight issues since December 21.

- The story of the stoppage, page 2
- Leading article, page 9
- Annual review, pages 14 and 15
- For the record, pages 4, 7 and 19

BR threat

British Rail faces a closed shop confrontation with the National Union of Railwaymen over the growing numbers of union members resigning. About a hundred members are believed to have resigned after being disciplined by the union.

Lebanon talks

The third round of negotiations between Israel and Lebanon opens today in the Lebanese town of Khalde, when the Americans will take part in an attempt to break the deadlock over normalizing relations.

Bounty link

Mr Thomas Christian, the radio operator on Pitcairn Island in the Pacific, has been made an MBE. He is the great-great-grandson of Fletcher Christian, leader of the mutiny on the Bounty.

Tornado doubt

None of the first 400 engines produced for the Tornado, Nato's new multirole combat aircraft now entering service, fully met the required performance standards.

Pope plot theory

Dr Henry Kissinger claims there is "convincing evidence" that Mr Yuri Andropov, as head of the KGB, "had a hand in" the plot which led to the attack last year on the Pope.

Miller's opinion

In his first article for *The Times* today, David Miller, former chief sports writer for the *Daily Express*, condemns professional sportsmen for knowing the price of everything but the value of nothing. He says that the public's interest in sport will continue to wane if they cannot be certain that what they are paying to watch is bona fide.

Leader page, 9

Letters: On nuclear arms, from Professor Otto Pick, and others; divorce, from Mr C. B. Chandler; old battlefields, from Dr J. R. Maddison.

Leading articles: The new year, return of *The Times*.

Features, page 8: Helmut Schmidt on where Britain stands after 10 years in the EEC. The hazard Olympic athletes will face in Los Angeles.

Page 14: Anniversaries of 1983.

Page 16: Obituaries of 1982.

Obituary, page 10: Canon John Collins, Arthur Rubinstein.

Home News, 2-4; Entertainment, 5-6; Overseas, 5-6; Parliament, 10; Arts, 11; Press Books, 10; Chess, 12; Science, 12; Sport, 17-19; Court, 22; TV & Radio, 22; Consumer, 22; Weather, 22; Low Report, 16; Wills, 10.

Danish fishing fleet sets sail to defy Britain

By Our Foreign Staff

About 100 Danish fishing vessels set out from ports along the west coast of Jutland yesterday and are heading for confrontation with British fishing patrol boats.

Despite storm warnings in the North Sea, the boats left Esbjerg, Hvide Sande and Hirtshals and this afternoon they will be joined by Mr Kent Kirk, a European Member of Parliament and trawler owner who has said he will fish for sprat off Newcastle.

"The aim of my action is to get a ruling from the European Court confirming Danish fishermen's rights," he said. "We intend initially to keep out of the British 12 mile offshore zone of course," Mr Kirk told *The Times*, "but we know from past experience that sprat are often easiest to catch near the coast and we intend to fish right up to the British beaches if necessary."

A spokesman for the Danish Sea Fishery Association, however, denied that the Danish vessels represented in any way a new "Viking invasion". "Our fishermen have no intention of provoking the British," he said, "they are not going to do anything illegal, only fish industrial fish outside the British 12 mile zone."

The prospect of a Danish armada was played down by the Ministry of Agriculture in London. Officials said that the combination of the New Year holiday and the gale warnings would deter many of them from crossing the North Sea.

Fishing over the weekend was said to be very light, with fewer than a dozen boats in the northern area of the North Sea. On Saturday a small trawler was sighted by an RAF Nimrod about 100 miles east of Wick, on the north-east coast of Scotland, and on Friday two other vessels were boarded by Royal Navy patrols. Nothing illegal was found.

With the most likely "battlegrounds" seen as the Shetlands and the Minches, off the west coast of Scotland, the Scottish Fisheries Service has been placed on full alert.

All six of its protection vessels are at sea, under the control of a special operations room in Edinburgh and, together with the Ministry of Agriculture, which is responsible for England and Wales, it can call

Jobless total hidden says Williams

By George Clark

The Government is "playing politics" with the unemployed and issuing misleading figures about the job shortage, Mrs Shirley Williams, the Social Democratic Party's spokeswoman on employment, said yesterday.

She published a detailed analysis of figures derived from Government sources and rejected the Government's statement that the total of unemployed in November was 3,065,026. The true total, she said, was 3,865,104.

The Government knows that more people will be put out about the jobs shortage, she said. "The Government is trying to hide the true jobless figures because its economic policies have failed totally."

Mrs Williams said that Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, would produce year-end unemployment figures on Thursday which would be "doctored". She would issue four sets of figures, alongside those of Mr Tebbit, to give the true position.

Instead of announcing how many people were unemployed, Mr Tebbit would merely report

how many unemployed people were drawing social security benefits. The December figures were likely to be almost the same as those for November, but the total could be expected to shoot up significantly in January.

The Government has already come under attack from Labour front-benchers over the change made in the autumn in the method of calculating the total. Mrs Williams said that with Mr Tebbit's measure the total in November was 3,065,026. This she believed, was equivalent to 3,266,229 on the old basis of counting those registered as unemployed.

Mr Tebbit did not take into account the "hidden" or unregistered unemployed, which brought the total up to 3,865,104. The Government's Labour Force Survey explicitly confirmed the number of "hidden" unemployed to be 447,000 in 1981 and that number would have risen since in line with registered unemployment.

But the Government figures also took no account of the number of people who would work if given the chance, but who were so discouraged by the slump that they had dropped out of the labour force entirely. Moreover, it understated the number of jobs which needed to be generated to achieve full employment.

Complications ahead, page 6



Troubled waters: Mr Kirk, a Euro-MP, preparing to join 100 Danish boats on a confrontation course with Britain.

Traffic cameras may explain Trafalgar Square deaths

By Rupert Morris

Film from traffic-monitoring television cameras in Trafalgar Square will help police over the next few days to piece together the events which led to the deaths of two women during the new year celebrations.

Eye-witnesses are still being sought to the panic-stricken end to the festivities which saw 141 people taken to hospital and a man die from an asthmatic attack.

Scotland Yard's inquiry will be conducted by a senior officer, yet to be appointed, and will be passed to the Home Secretary, Mr. Robert Carr, on Monday. Two MPs, Mr. Roland Moyle, Labour MP for Lewisham, East, and Mr. William Pitt, the Liberal spokesman on home affairs, have called for a public inquiry, but the Home Office indicated yesterday that this was unlikely, at least until the police had completed their investigations.

The second woman who died

was named yesterday as Miss Deborah Smith, aged 21, from Cape Town, South Africa. She had been staying in London on holiday after finishing a job as an au pair in Sussex.

The other victim was named earlier as Mrs Joan Leary, aged 43, a widow from Woking, Surrey, who travelled up to London alone on the spur of the moment to join in the celebrations. Inquests are expected later this week.

The name of the third person to die, from an asthmatic attack, was being withheld until next of kin had been informed. No satisfactory explanation has yet emerged for the fatal concentration of people in the south-eastern corner of Trafalgar Square shortly after midnight. It is hoped that the cameras will have provided important evidence.

The public houses and bars, whose hours were extended

until 12.30 had disgorged most of their customers just before midnight without incident. There had been isolated disturbances involving skinheads and National Front supporters, and drunken youths were reported to have been dancing a conga through the crowd.

But although there were 70 arrests, mostly from drunkenness and disorder (compared with 26 the year before), police said it was an insignificant number considering the size of the crowd - about 65,000, according to Scotland Yard - and had no bearing on the deaths.

Scotland Yard also denied reports that the crowd movement had been started by an ambulance going to the aid of an injured policeman, or by the collapse of one of the waist-

Continued on back page, col 1

Dissidents behead farmer, 70

From Stephen Taylor Harare

Time was running out for a young farmer held by Zimbabwe dissidents as security forces continued an intensive hunt north of Bulawayo yesterday. The dissidents, who demanded the release of detainees by today, have already killed his grandfather, a farmer in his 70s, who was found beheaded on Saturday.

For the second time in six months helicopters and troops are scouring the Matshidzandzwa bush for hostage tracks after a bloody New Year's Eve in which - in addition to the abduction - six people were killed in an ambush.

As the troubled province braced itself for a backlash to this serious and sudden upsurge in dissident activity, Mr Joshua Nkomo said that the rebels represented neither his Patriotic Front party nor the inhabitants of the area.

The ambush was one of the worst incidents of its kind in Zimbabwe since the end of the guerrilla war. Dissidents opened fire on a farm vehicle not far from the main Bulawayo-Victoria Falls road on Friday morning and when the shooting stopped all six occupants were dead - Mr David Walters, a Lomho farm manager, three other men and his sons, aged two and four.

Two hours later Mr David Bilang, aged 24, and Mr Boudy Williams, his grandfather, were seized at gunpoint on a rural road less than 50 miles away.

Mr Williams, who is understood to have expressed, in a ransom note he was forced to write, confidence that his captors would not kill him, was found murdered not far from the abduction scene.

£9m bank haul may be only waste paper

By Stewart Tandler

The theft of more than £9m from the City branch of an Iranian bank, may have left thieves with little more than useless paper according to a City of London police spokesman yesterday.

The money was taken in the form of certificates of deposit which could only be cashed within a certain time. The robbery may have been discovered sooner than the thieves expected, stopping them from cashing the certificates. The expiry date has passed without any certificates appearing in the international money market.

The robbery, at a branch of the Sepah-Iran Bank in Eastcheap, took place early in December but details were only released by the police on Saturday, four weeks later, because the bank is said to have requested no publicity.

According to the police, a team of three or four robbers broke into the bank during the night of Friday, December 1. The bank's alarm system is said to have been triggered.

Serial numbers of the certificates were issued with a warning throughout the banking world and Interpol was also alerted to pass details to police forces. The certificates expired on December 23 and yesterday the police said that there had been no news of the certificates since the robbery. A spokesman said: "The numbers were put out very quickly and we hope that stopped ideas about using them. We are not aware they have been used at all."

Certificates of Deposit - popularly known in the financial world as CDs - are a kind of IOU issued by a bank to a depositor placing money with the bank for a specified period, interest rate and currency.

to be old fashioned and relatively unsophisticated. The thieves by-passed the security arrangements and gained entry with equipment, including a thermic lance, which is capable of cutting through very thick, strong steel and metal.

Working undisturbed, the thieves cut their way into the bank's safe, removing the certificates and £31,000 in British and foreign currency. The nine certificates were issued in sums of both sterling and dollars. The robbery was completed during Saturday, December 4, and the thieves made their way out of the building still undetected.

The robbery might have remained undetected until normal banking hours on Monday, December 6, but on the Sunday the bank's manager came in to do some paper work and raised the alarm. The robbery was thus discovered before banking hours had begun on many of the world's financial markets at the start of a new week.

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Dick Emery dies after short illness

Comedian Dick Emery died in London last night.

Mr Emery, aged 63, was taken to the private Cromwell Hospital, Kensington, on December 23 suffering from stomach pains and was transferred to King's College Hospital, south London, last Thursday after contracting a lung infection.

He suffered from gout, and friends said his illness was first caused by taking the wrong tablets to treat his condition.

The London-born comedian came from a show business background. He went on tour with his parents and appeared in many variety shows as a child.

He was best known for his character roles on his television series, which included a "bovver boy", a homosexual and a middle-aged spinster, and his was the famous catch phrase "ooh - you are awful".

Dick Emery appeared in films and pantomime and on radio and television for more than twenty years and in 1973 was named as the BBC Television Personality of the Year.

He was married five times and was often described as highly strung and insecure off stage.

As tributes were paid last night by Mr Emery's many showbusiness friends Mr Roy Kinnear, the comedian, said: "I am absolutely shocked. One had no idea he was so ill."

Mr Kinnear, who played opposite Dick Emery as his father during the BBC series, added: "He was a marvellous person to work with."

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US blamed by Russia for arms stalemate

Moscow (Reuters) - The Soviet Union said yesterday that the Americans were responsible for a stalemate at the Geneva talks on strategic arms limitation by taking a one-sided approach.

An article in *Pravda* spelt out for the first time for Soviet readers Moscow's negotiating position and alleged that President Reagan had distorted the Soviet proposals.

At the funeral three days before Christmas of Group Captain Hans-Ulrich Rudel, Germany's most decorated war hero and a leading neo-Nazi, some of the elderly mourners at

Nazi funeral angers Germany's young

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

As the press and politicians here remind an anxious and soberly reflective nation that it is 50 years this month since Hitler came to power, a bizarre incident from Germany's Nazi past has angered the young, embarrassed the Government and done considerable damage to the Federal Republic's image overseas.

At the funeral three days before Christmas of Group Captain Hans-Ulrich Rudel, Germany's most decorated war hero and a leading neo-Nazi, some of the elderly mourners at

the graveside raised their right hands in the forbidden Hitler salute, jet fighters swooped low and dipped their wings in an apparent flight of honour and all three verses, not now sung, of the chauvinistic *Deutschland Über Alles* rang out over the cemetery.

Pictures of Rudel's comrades, in leather coats and wearing their Iron Crosses, were splashed across the world's press and a great scandal began as the angry Government tried to determine which, if any, aircraft took part in the fly past, who flew them and why. Even

now, after questions have been raised in the Bundestag, the answer remains unclear.

Group Captain Rudel, the only holder of the Iron Cross with the insignia of gold oak leaves, swords and diamonds, was a valiant Stuka pilot on the eastern front who destroyed 519 Soviet tanks and sank a Soviet battleship. But after the war, fleeing west from his native Silesia, he remained an apologist for the Third Reich and after a spell in Argentina was in West German politics as neo-Nazi or, as he termed himself, an "ultraconservative."

When he died, aged 66, 2,000 people came to the funeral in the small village of Dornhausen, but because of his controversial politics, there was no official condolence, no honour or representation by the Luftwaffe - at least, not officially. But mourners swear that the Phantom fighters they say of burial low at the moment of burial wove a pattern in the sky that looked like a swastika.

The Ministry of Defence categorically denies any such thing, saying all flights in the region were normal training missions.



Franks to cause secrets shake-up

By Peter Hennessy

There are strong indications that the Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC), the hub of the Government's secret intelligence-gathering processes, will undergo its biggest shake-up since 1939 as a result of criticisms contained in the Franks report on the Falklands.

The Prime Minister received the report on Friday, but it will not be published until later this month.

The Foreign Office seems certain to lose the chairmanship of the JIC, which it has held since the Second World War.

The present incumbent, Mr Patrick Wright, took over as the Falklands task force sailed south last Easter. He replaced Sir Antony Acland on Sir Antony's promotion to the headship of the Diplomatic Service.

Mr Wright has other responsibilities in addition to the JIC. He supervises the Foreign Office Permanent Under-Secretary's Department, which works with the clandestine agencies.

He also sits on the D-Notice Committee and the joint Whitehall-press body, which operates the system of voluntary self-censorship on certain defence and intelligence matters used by the British media.

One of the most important post-Franks changes will be the appointment of a full-time chairman for the JIC. The new man will become an official of the Cabinet Office, which houses the Joint Intelligence Organisation and its assessment staff, which calibrate the flow of material to the JIC.

The JIC, which has been a fully fledged Cabinet Committee since 1957 (previously it was responsible to the Chiefs of Staff), has many critics in Whitehall, who long before the Falklands crisis were unimpressed by what they considered its cumbersome procedures and sluggishness in responding to crises.

Its membership included, in addition to Mr Wright, Mr Robin O'Neill, director of the assessments staff, Sir Brian Tovey, director of the Government Communications Headquarters, the Ministry of Defence, Director of Military Intelligence, the Director-General of the Secret Intelligence Service, MI6, the Director-General of the Security Service, MI5, Sir Antony Duff, coordinator of Security and intelligence in the Cabinet Office and a representative from the Chiefs of Staff Committee.

The JIC's main function is to approve weekly summaries of intelligence groups. They divide the globe between them for inclusion in the "Red Book", which goes to selected ministers every Thursday.

As the prime early-warning mechanism for ministers on the Cabinet's Overseas and Defence

Teachers call for tougher policy to combat violence in classroom

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Parents and children should be prosecuted for assaulting teachers, Britain's third biggest teachers' union, the Assistant Masters and Mistresses' Association, said in a policy statement published yesterday.

Although the union, which has 90,000 members, says it is impossible to estimate the number of teachers assaulted each year, it claims that the number reported to its headquarters has increased.

"It is our impression that physical attacks on teachers must now be considered as a distinct occupational risk."

The association, calling for more support from education authorities for teachers who face physical and verbal abuse every day, lists some cases which, it claims, are not atypical. They include a London teacher attacked by a boy aged 14 who was 6ft tall. "The boy had Mr J's head trapped between his legs and deliberately took one of his fingers, twisting it until it broke with an audible crack."

Mrs K, a teacher in a West Country school who was four months pregnant, asked a girl to pick up some litter. The girl swore at and then attacked Mrs K, who was bruised, suffered shock, and had to remain at home the next day.

Mr M rebuked a boy of 13 at a large Midlands comprehensive school for making a "V" sign at a woman teacher. The boy's mother demanded to see Mr M and started shouting, and while Mr M was trying to persuade her to go to his office the boy's elder brother hit the teacher three or four times with a pick-axe handle. Meanwhile, the mother was trying to claw the teacher's face.

The union, which insures its members against serious assault, says teachers get poor support from education authorities.

"When pupils commit assaults, head teachers, governing bodies and local education authorities are too frequently reluctant to take positive action," the document says. It was also very difficult to get the police involved.

The document says that councils should gather information about assaults on teachers, head teachers should notify the police after an assault, and the assailant should be removed from school or the teacher concerned should not be required to teach him or her.

Papers reveal an earlier action

The other invasion scare

By Peter Hennessy

Secret files declassified by the Government tomorrow under the 30-year rule show that Sir Winston Churchill had his own Falklands crisis in 1952. Fearful

that the Argentine dictator, President Juan Peron, was preparing to invade the islands, the Prime Minister ordered the dispatch of 30 Royal Marines and a Royal Navy frigate to the South Atlantic "secretly and at once".

Though much remains an official secret, details of Churchill's action 30 years before Mrs Margaret Thatcher sent the 1982 Falklands task force, can be pieced together from fragments released at the Public Record Office in Chiefs of Staff and Foreign Office papers.

Sir Winston's Falklands initiative was one of the best kept secrets of the 1950s. The Cabinet was not informed. The Prime Minister made his move despite intelligence reports from Buenos Aires that Argentina was not intent on offensive action.

The story begins in February, 1951, when Mr Attlee's Labour Government was still in office. Sir Winston returned to power in October that year.

Thereafter Churchill's Falklands crisis melted away. Lord Hailsham, Head of Chery in the Buenos Aires Embassy in 1952, recalled yesterday: "If anything was going to happen about the Falklands it was going to be done later."

"They had to do other things internally first - Evita's eyes and his eyes were on that, securing power. If there were a few bits of kudos going at no cost, then they might assert themselves."

But Peron's failure to go further has puzzled at least one Foreign Office man.

Mr Robert Cecil, head of the office's American Department in 1952, said yesterday: "It has occurred to me since last summer how peculiar it is that this jumped-up chap, Galtieri, should have done what he did when Juan Peron, the most powerful dictator in South America, with both the Army and the trade unions behind him, did not do so."

Tomorrow, Macmillan's housing drive that strained the economy.



Winston Churchill with the Argentine dictator, Juan Peron. In 1951, in a more belligerent mood, he ordered a Royal Navy preemptive move against Argentine designs

Bringing the 'Met' into line with Britain

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter

Recommendations to bring the Metropolitan Police closer to the inspection system used by the Home Office to regulate other British police forces are expected to be proposed by Sir Kenneth Newman, the new commissioner of the London force, within weeks.

According to a senior police source, Sir Kenneth is considering closer links between the Metropolitan Police and the Home Office. Inspectors of Constabulary. At the same time he is considering improvements in the system used by the London force to carry out internal inspections.

For the moment there is no intention of inviting the Home Office Inspectorate into London, but Sir Kenneth's proposals may go some way to allaying criticism that the Metropolitan Police remains exempt from the national inspection system and is allowed to regulate itself without a police authority other than the Home Office.

The recommendations will be made in a report on the current state of the Metropolitan Police and the need for improvements which is being prepared by Sir Kenneth for Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary.

The report was ordered in October, and will be presented in the next fortnight.

The Inspectors of Constabulary, usually senior officers such as chief constables and their deputies, each cover a region of the country, inspecting forces annually and reporting on efficiency to the Home Secretary. The inspectors also confer with the police authorities.

In London inspections are carried out by a department headed by a deputy assistant commissioner and based in south London. Sections of the force are checked in a three-year cycle and reports made to the Home Secretary. The system was started in 1979.

The first cycle was completed in 1981, resulting in 69 reports being sent to the Home Office covering 45 branches and 24 districts. Bulletins are also issued within the force and senior officers keep a reference volume on the reports. The keynotes of the inspections are cost-effectiveness and police-public relations.

Now Sir Kenneth has taken a look at the first fruits of the inspection system. He is expected to change the three year cycle, which may mean a larger inspection team. The system of inspection may also be re-examined.

Microlight Africa flight

By Ronald Faux

Mr Philip Berent's "great adventure" to Zimbabwe is to take off soon despite the odds. Mr Berent, aged 23, an economic graduate and recently qualified pilot, plans to fly a British-made Pathfinder microlight aircraft from Salisbury, Wiltshire, to Harare (formerly Salisbury), setting a new distance record for these small aircraft.

He will be pursued along the ground by a Stonefield truck, the Scottish built rough terrain vehicle, with a support crew and spare parts on board.

Mr Berent, who is seized with a keenness for "real flying" with air roaring past his ears, expects to take three months on the flight. He will be cruising at about 60 knots across France, Spain, Morocco, and 1,500 miles of Sahara Desert.

Political clearance for the 11,000-mile flight has been given, he says, for almost the entire route. He will make hops of about 300 miles a day using radio navigation and "pure map reading".

He will be in radio contact with the truck, driven by his uncle, who is a mechanic.

Father of nurse to fight seat

The father of Nurse Helen Smith has announced that he will stand for Parliament as an independent candidate in the next general election. Mr Ronald Smith, a former policeman, has spent the last three and a half years fighting to gain information which would shed new light on his daughter's death in Saudi Arabia.

"I plan to use the experience I gained to help other people fighting bureaucracy," he said. Mr Smith, aged 55, who lives in Guiseley, West Yorkshire, will contest his home constituency of Pudsey. He polled more votes than the Prince of Wales in a BBC Men of the Year poll and has been promised financial backing for his election campaign by a group of lecturers at Bradford University.

Organ alert

Mr Theo Saunders, the organist at St Michael's Church, Exeter, alerted police to an attempted break-in at the church on Saturday night by playing some Bach. He had called at the church to return some books. Neighbours called the police. Two men were being questioned later.

Last flight

A piece of concrete, dislodged from a bridge after a startling flew against a high voltage cable over the main Crewe to Liverpool railway line, was removed from the track by the police after a Cheshire farmer reported the explosion.

PC back on duty

Police Constable John Meardon, who was suspended after a false distress flare sent the Penlee lifeboat out for two hours in rough seas, has returned to duty. Meardon said yesterday: "I did not do it, but everybody thinks I did."



Old-fashioned fun: The smile on the face of Rachael Duncan, aged 10, from Sunderland, shows that the toys of yesterday can provoke as much fun as the modern, computerized kind. The boy giving her so much amusement is a clockwork "bone shaker", part of a collection of historical toys displayed last week by Mr Frank Thompson (in background) at the London Transport Museum, in Covent Garden, London. (Photograph: Jonathan Player)

'Humanity and tact' call in rape inquiries

By David Nicholson-Lord

Police investigating rape cases must treat complainants with tact and sympathy, according to new Home Office guidelines which will be issued to forces in the next few weeks.

But Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, yesterday ruled out mandatory minimum sentences for rape and emphasized the responsibility of police to establish an alleged victim whether a rape prosecution would stand up to cross-examination.

"Of course, this has to be done with humanity and tact," he added during an interview on BBC Radio's *The World This Weekend*.

The guidelines, described by the Home Office as comprehensive, deal with matters such as medical examinations, the use of women police officers and the attitude and approach of officers during questioning.

Police tactics in investigating rape cases were strongly criticized after a "television programme early last year showed an aggressive interrogation of a complainant by Thames Valley police."

Lord Hailsham yesterday described this as "not necessarily typical" and added: "Before (police) bring a prosecution for what is really a horrible offence you have to be reasonably sure that there is a case which will stand up to cross-examination."

He also described current policy on rape sentencing as of "exceptional severity" and said he did not support the idea of holding proceedings in camera.

In formulating the new guidelines, ministers have gone some way to accepting the arguments of some critics that an apparently unfriendly response by investigating officers deters many victims from reporting the crime to police.

The latest in a series of controversial rape cases came last month when a man aged 26 spent less than three months in custody after twice raping a girl aged six.

Epidemic of whooping cough past its peak

By Richard Evans

Last year's whooping cough epidemic, which claimed the lives of 14 young children, was almost certainly the worst on record since a national vaccination scheme was introduced in 1958.

By the middle of December 64,094 cases had been reported, and with new cases still running at more than 1,000 a week the 1978 record of 65,956 is expected to be broken.

The outbreak, which began in the autumn of 1981, reached its peak in the first week of September, when 3,317 new cases were reported. More than 1,000 were recorded during most weeks of 1982. That compares with a normal average of 200 to 300 cases a week and a total of about 20,000 for 1981.

The death toll of 14 in 1982, mainly involving babies under 12 months old, is the highest for more than a decade. In 1981 there were five fatalities. The Department of Health said that the latest statistics indicated that the epidemic was subsiding and should end by next spring.

Whooping cough is an acute bacterial disease which normally lasts for about two weeks. The symptoms include severe coughing accompanied by vomiting and it can cause severe lung and brain damage.

Health officials blame last year's outbreak on the sharp drop in the number of parents having their children immunized against whooping cough because of the vaccine's link with brain damage.

A £200,000 publicity campaign launched by the Government at the height of the epidemic led to an increase in vaccination, the Department of Health said.

The department says the risk of an unvaccinated child contracting the disease is between one in 16 and one in 30, and the risk of a child dying is one in 3,000.

ERNIE'S JACKPOTS

1982

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY
£250,000 17WP 323484 Suffolk £100,000 7MP 337740 Hertfordshire 31T 349554 Leicestershire 16AZ 700642 Nottinghamshire 18ZS 261489 Dorset 3VW 745393 London (Camden)	£250,000 14KP 102872 Surrey £100,000 4VB 469235 Cheshire 12AN 117435 Cleveland 2HN 397201 Essex 10WZ 958259 London (Haringey)	£250,000 17ZN 301884 Fife £100,000 18ZZ 512661 London (Southwark) 25RP 263683 Cwyd 18WW 897161 West Sussex 10WP 879146 West Yorkshire	£250,000 4XB 896782 London (Tower Hamlets) £100,000 18ZP 681751 West Midlands 15XF 376327 Angus 1NL 836817 Fife 16AK 352078 Kent	£250,000 78F 133163 Warwickshire £100,000 51F 770225 Dumbartonshire 4FT 170944 Bristol 5BL 431824 London (Southwark) 3KP 170090 Lincolnshire 25ZB 460902 Sussex
£50,000 13VL 647350 Cwyd 6EB 947477 Blackpool XT 345328 Hertfordshire 8XS 695081 Norfolk 7AN 495431 South	£50,000 13VT 814308 Surrey 15VS 450647 Cambridge 5MZ 854369 West Midlands 8XS 695081 Norfolk £25,000 2HF 290308 London (Enfield) 1TL 077450 Northumberland 9QW 929654 Surrey 11LK 322557 London (Haringey)	£50,000 1ET 881395 Cheshire 14ZW 430636 Cornwall 7BN 509830 Wiltshire 8BF 599397 Northampton £25,000 9YS 865929 Suffolk 1KB 605578 London (Middlesex) 13XB 854479 London (Wandsworth) 8VT 323942 Gloucestershire	£50,000 1XL 01016 Luton 13AT 405878 Southampton 12AF 439848 North Yorkshire 11WS 497823 London (Hounslow) £25,000 TWP 713209 Kent 12WT 252265 Swansea 11VS 268682 Essex 9RP 696062 Lincolnshire	£50,000 17RZ 120930 London (Merton) 4EL 930359 Co Durham 1XW 993113 Richmond upon Thames 11AL 346098 Dorset 7EZ 434303 Sheffield £25,000 6FK 610006 Edinburgh 17VN 640412 Portsmouth 8JB 369873 Dorset 11KK 776055 Lancashire 12RF 410665 Berkshire
£25,000 19WZ 216021 Cheshire (Wandsworth) 6LP 085702 Kent 13RL 785216 London (Camden) 15KK 530272 London (Camden) 23RL 942018 Belfast	£250,000 8KB 863317 Surrey £100,000 9VW 834663 Suffolk 3FK 329342 Essex 1AL 969210 Lincolnshire 10VK 299203 Kent	£250,000 18VT 458278 Leeds £100,000 51Z 711236 Staffordshire 4EP 026679 Buckinghamshire 20RF 665650 Hampshire 18ZB 785124 North Yorkshire 18B 757142 Hertfordshire	£250,000 3AS 837398 Edinburgh £100,000 19RK 698925 Manchester 10PN 698666 Somerset 8VK 020075 London (Bromley) 19AW 057507 London (Wandsworth)	£250,000 13KT 913599 South Yorkshire £100,000 12TB 256213 London (Barnet) 14PF 397169 Norwich 20RS 392111 London (Barnet) 6FZ 124305 Suffolk 14ZK 411282 London (Wandsworth)
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NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	<p>In addition there were 1,221,022 prizes worth from £50 to £10,000.</p> <p>The total value of the pay-out to Premium Bond holders in 1982 was £103,388,450.</p> <p>Good luck for 1983 from ERNIE.</p>		
£250,000 15TW 068202 Cambridge £100,000 12AN 988413 Cheshire 8PS 282887 Hampshire 19VW 588426 London (Middlesex) 7KW 463411 Suffolk £50,000 7XZ 289480 Liverpool 25VN 450690 Cheshire 21VK 290420 Cwyd 3RF 470162 Lancashire £25,000 15VB 673154 Cambridgeshire 16AP 687786 Hertfordshire 3BK 230601 Cheshire 14AS 172929 Derbyshire	£250,000 10PW 943642 Ayrshire £100,000 12YZ 679119 Hampshire 23RK 588637 West Yorkshire EL 054277 Staffordshire 14YP 107678 London (Southwark) £50,000 4LZ 541057 London (Redbridge) 5DB 641069 Warwickshire 11XL 854877 London (Harrow) 22RB 220021 Surrey £25,000 5LB 080001 Dyfed 3MB 086129 Cornwall 10RN 918593 Surrey 17AB 061067 South Yorkshire	<p>PREMIUM BONDS</p>		



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PARLIAMENT December 20-23 1982

Thatcher clashes with Foot over Andropov disarmament proposals

DISARMAMENT

In clashes in the Commons with Mr Michael Foot, the Leader of the Opposition, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said at a question time on December 23 that she was mystified that the Labour Party preferred a disarmament option where the Soviet Union had many intermediate range nuclear missiles and Britain had none. The danger would not be reduced by the Soviet leader, Mr Yuri Andropov's, proposals, but by having no nuclear weapons of intermediate range.

Mr Foot: We are concerned to have the best defence we can have without blowing the world to pieces. Has she had a chance to reconsider the reply she made to the House on Tuesday (December 21) about Mr Andropov's proposals? She said Mr Andropov had not had time to read the full proposals. She made a most peremptory and slapdash reply to a matter of major importance. Has she had the chance to consult the Foreign Office? It seems to have a very different view from her own on the way negotiations should be proceeded with.

Mrs Thatcher: The Foreign Office takes precisely the same view as the Prime Secretary and I take. It is perfectly straightforward and simple. The Soviet Union has been offered a zero option, no intermediate range nuclear missiles. That is by far the best for the Soviet Union and ourselves.

For those who hate nuclear weapons, and for peace everywhere, that is the option we should go for. I am utterly mystified that members of the Opposition prefer to go to the option where we have none and the Soviet Union still has many.

Mr Foot: What she has said does not at all agree with what the Foreign Secretary said yesterday (December 22). He attempted to treat the matter seriously. Many others in Europe have responded seriously, for example the Foreign Minister in West Germany.

What we are asking her to do is to match up with her Foreign Office and recognize that 1983 could be the most dangerous year in the history of the nuclear arms race. We want the British Government to do something constructive.

Mrs Thatcher: The danger will not be reduced by Mr Andropov's proposals, but by having no nuclear weapons of an intermediate range. He is prepared to have one on the Soviet side. I do not want any. I want a zero option on both sides.

If he wants the official Foreign Office briefing, let me give it to him: A continuing Soviet nuclear force longer range INF missiles in Europe with NATO alone implementing the zero option would be unacceptable.

Mrs Foot: Did not our own Foreign Secretary say yesterday that these proposals would be seriously considered? Which is the policy of the Government - the explosion of the Prime Minister or the considered response of the Foreign Secretary?

Mrs Thatcher: The policy of the Government is zero option. It is not because some of us stood firmly up and said that. Cruise missiles will be deployed unless we get satisfactory conclusions from the Soviet Union, that the Soviet Union is for the first time beginning to consider reducing. They have got a long way to go to get to zero option.

For the Soviet Union to have a monopoly on these weapons and us to have none is totally unacceptable to this side of the House.

Mr Foot: She should sort out these matters in her own government. It was pressure from the Opposition and from the peace movement throughout Europe that caused Mrs Thatcher's Geneva talks going.

Mrs Thatcher: I am not sure that she should. It is not because some of us stood firmly up and said that. Cruise missiles will be deployed unless we get satisfactory conclusions from the Soviet Union, that the Soviet Union is for the first time beginning to consider reducing. They have got a long way to go to get to zero option.

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government had not said a single word in favour of these talks before President Reagan himself was persuaded to come forward in favour of them. We were in favour of them all along.

Mrs Thatcher: He is talking nonsense (Conservative cheers). The proposals are very extensive for a zero option on INF and substantial reductions on the conventional side. They were put forward in a well-known speech by President Reagan, all of which are an excellent package of disarmament proposals on a multilateral basis.

I must ask him whether he is for the zero option or whether he is prepared to have a monopoly of these intermediate range weapons on the Soviet side and none for us? He must answer that question.

Mr Martin Flannery (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab) had asked on December 21: could we have an assurance from the Prime Minister, before we go away for the Christmas break, that she will examine with very great care the first speech made by Mr Andropov?

Will she bring more care than prejudice into the examination of this speech? Will she and her party stop accusing the anti-nuclear struggle in this country of sympathy simply with the Soviet Union?

Mrs Thatcher: There is not yet a full account available of Mr Andropov's speech. From what we know of it, what he is proposing is to reduce the number of SS20s by a proportion, but the effect of what he is proposing is to make the United States have zero intermediate range nuclear missiles, while he has a very considerable number left. That does not seem to be able to keep the essential balance which is required for our security.

We require in this country not the peace of Poland, nor the peace of Czechoslovakia, nor the peace of Stalin, but peace for freedom and justice.

It was right and fair to indicate shortcomings in the proposals by Mr Andropov on nuclear arms reductions. Mr Francis Pym, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said in the Commons on December 22.

Mr Denis Healey, chief Opposition spokesman, said that Mr Andropov's proposals were a "one woman walking disaster" which attempts to sabotage all his initiatives.

Mr Frank Ailman, (Salford, East, Lab) said that Mr Andropov's proposals were a "one woman walking disaster" which attempts to sabotage all his initiatives.

Mr Pym: I said yesterday that if Mr Andropov's suggestion meant that, in principle, the Soviet Union was prepared to reduce the SS20s, that would seem to be a small step in the right direction. On my readiness to negotiate, I made clear in last week's debate that these were ideas that were floated. They were only informal at this stage. Mr Andropov spoke publicly of them yesterday.

When negotiations restart at the end of January full details will be available. But from what we know already there are shortcomings in these proposals and it is right and fair to indicate this. We must look at them with the greatest care.

Mr Healey has added to the confusion he complained of last week about the British system. The Russian request for including the British system is an attempt to divert attention from the real position of imbalance at the heart of the problem.

The arrangement for these negotiations between the two super powers is for land-based missiles and not submarine-launched missiles which are excluded by both sides.

The negotiations are about parity between the US and the Russians. In any case our Polaris nuclear force is essentially a strategic missile. For all these reasons the British system is not part of the negotiations and Mr Healey knows that.

The point about the difference between the Soviet Union and the West, Russia and the United States, is in the equation as to the nature of the nuclear balance. It is vital that the parties concerned must agree on the facts of the situation before they can make progress.

No, it is not certain or inevitable that the missiles will come to Europe at the end of this coming year. The arms Soviet negotiators succeed, it is possible for the two

brought to its knees by military means.

In the Falklands, deterrence failed, partly because of the lack of in-place forces. Now more than at any other time it would be pure folly for Britain to destabilize the current situation on the Central Front.

With the resources at his disposal, Britain's national interest is a move by her to reduce her commitment on the continent of Europe. The Falklands experience offered no lessons on this score.

A partial United States withdrawal from the defence of Europe, if it came about, might bring about a more determined European attempt to arrive at a collective security arrangement among the European members of the Nato alliance. But it is more possible, far more probable, by neutralist groups within Europe to seek closer accommodation with the Soviet Union.

Detente may be one thing (he said) and I favour it, but a shift among our European allies towards greater political and economic integration with the Communist bloc would seriously disturb the current balance of power in Europe against the interests of the United Kingdom.

I am all for rationalization and specialization where our capability will be enhanced. But Britain, as a sovereign nation, cannot afford to be taken over by a few major sea/air, land/air capabilities. She certainly cannot afford to abandon our defence against nuclear blackmail in a world of nuclear weapons.

The right way for Britain was to retain her four main roles and to keep on the present course. He believed Britain had the resources to maintain that aim.

In spite of the fact that some critics see it otherwise (he said) the defence budget is not at present under strain. I know it suits the argument of the anti-Trident lobby to assert that it is.

But, the pressure on him to add to the programme within the already agreed defence totals were much greater than any pressures he had to reduce the programme. In last week, a move towards creating more air-mobile forces as a reserve for 1 British Corps to make it possible to move around the world and bring in the reserves

sides to negotiate an arrangement which is verifiable and balanced, and arms are to be reduced on both sides in an even handed way, then they will have to review the decision we took.

Mr Cyril Townsend (Bexley, Berkeleys Heath, C): Mr Andropov's proposals come close to inviting Britain to trade an apple for an orange. It has long been the British Government's view that unilateral or one-sided disarmament would be naive in the extreme.

Mr Pym: We have always rejected the notion of unilateral disarmament precisely because it would throw away our defence and bring arms control no nearer.

The only reason the Russians are at the negotiating table at all is because of our decision in Nato three years ago. That is why they are there discussing the possibilities of reductions. He says there are obvious weaknesses in the plan put forward. It is for the negotiators to come to their conclusion when the next round begins.

Mr Healey: Many of us welcome Mr Pym's recognition that Mr Andropov's proposals were a step forward and that his reaction to negotiate on them is a welcome contrast to the total rejection of the proposals by President Reagan (Lab cheers) which many of us deeply deplore.

But in the light of the fact that Mr Pym said on television last night that the West must examine Mr Andropov's proposals as part of "the overall balance of security" how on earth can Mr Pym refuse to negotiate with the British and French nuclear forces as part of this overall balance?

The planned Trident force which Mr Pym supports would have the same destructive power as the whole Soviet SS20 force. Does he really expect the Russians to ignore it? If so, why does he plan to spend £10,000 on them while the aim is influencing Soviet policy?

We are sick and tired of the bargain basement Boudicca barging in yet again with an off-the-cuff dismissal of Mr Andropov's proposals when she admitted yesterday that she had not even read them. Does Mr Pym not recognize his duty and right to work for peace against the one woman walking disaster who attempts to sabotage all his initiatives?

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● The offer by Mr Andropov, the Soviet Premier, for a reduction in nuclear weapons was bogus Lord Belstead, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs said in the House of Lords on December 22.

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Walker to protect UK fishing rights

FISHERIES

Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, announced on December 22 that day signed orders effective from January 1 to enable Britain legally to defend its fishing stocks if Britain's shores. This followed the failure on December 21 of the Council of Fisheries Ministers to get a unanimous agreement on a revised common fisheries policy.

Reporting on the meeting, held in Brussels, Mr Walker said: The nine member states were agreed on a package of measures for a revised common fisheries policy. No changes to this package were proposed or discussed.

Mr Bruce Millan, for the Opposition (Glasgow, Scottish, Lab): We welcome the whole package agreed by him to be completely unacceptable. Whatever has happened, there is certainly no certainty at January 1, 1983.

We cannot make a judgement about national measures until orders are available and I understand orders are not going to be laid until tomorrow. Despite what he has said about the legality of these measures, there must still be some doubt about them until they are tested. If they are tested, in the European Court.

We certainly will support any measures that are taken by him to protect our fishing stocks. I hope those who are concerned about the operation, will be strictly enforced.

What he has done, despite his continued blustering at the dispatch box, is produce at the end of this year a sorry mess, and he has failed to bring about a serious future for our fishing industry.

Mr Walker: It is significant that there was no voice from the Danish Government that any of the measures being discussed had any measure of illegality in them.

No concessions of any description have been made by the United Kingdom Government after the UK fishermen. Other concessions came primarily from agreements with Norway and elsewhere and all those will be withdrawn.

Restructuring will be discussed in the new year. There is a great deal of work to be done. The proposals will apply to 1983. Obviously the ideal basis of restructuring is one based on agreed fishing policy. I would hope that that would take place before the end of the year.

Mr John Grimwood (Orkney and Shetland, Lab): Whatever we may think of the agreement, at least we are glad that Mr Walker has stuck to his guns. We want to be assured that he has sufficient guts to stick to it.

Mr Walker: I would not like to see any friction between the United Kingdom and Denmark. In fact, the Danish minister of fishing, he made it clear at the meeting yesterday that he would deplore any act by Danish fishermen that violated the traditional fishing rights of the other countries in the North Sea. He strongly advised any Danish fishermen not to embark on any such course.

He made no objection to the legality of the national measures which were discussed yesterday.

Mr John Townsend (Bridlington, C): Can he reassure the industry that if Danish boats do not move to fish within the 12-mile limit, the orders that he has placed before the House will be adequate and the means of protection will be adequate to arrest the walkers and prosecute them?

Mr Walker: Yes.

Assembly is proving to be of use

ULSTER

Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, appeared on December 23 to Official Unionist MPs to give the Northern Ireland Assembly a chance and to answer questions about the future of Northern Ireland with powers available to and exercised by the people of Northern Ireland in the community together with the most serious and the most serious stability and, in the long run, peace.

He added: It was to achieve peace, then all sections of society in Northern Ireland have got to be prepared to give up some of their most cherished beliefs. That is what we are looking to (Conservative cheers) and I hope that everyone, within the context of the Assembly, will help to get devolved government back to Northern Ireland, will come and talk to me about them.

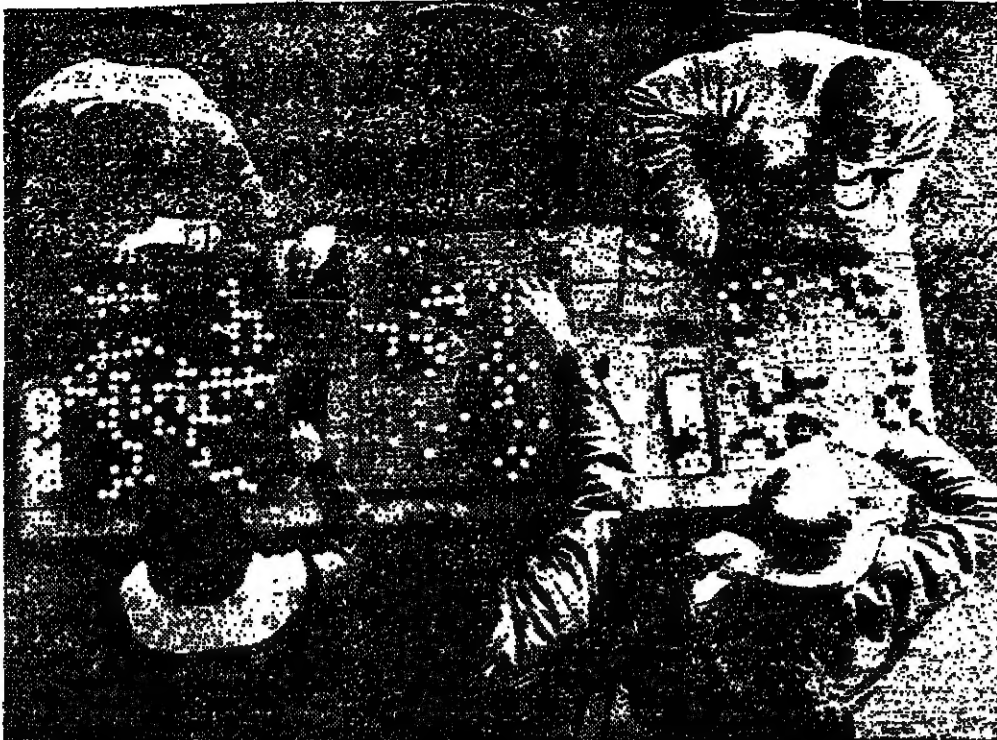
The Assembly had made some progress and was proving to be of great use and interest to the people of Northern Ireland. Mr Prior also said.

Mr Richard Mitchell (Southampton, Ichn, SDP) asked if he was still trying to persuade the SDLP to take part in the Assembly.

Mr Prior: Yes, but the people who are most likely to persuade the SDLP to take part are the members of the Assembly and I urge them to do all they can in the interests of peace in Northern Ireland to recognize that the two identities are properly represented there will not be peace and stability.

Mr Enock Powell (South Down, UUP): This Christmas and all Christmas to come will be haunted by the memory of those who have lost their lives or been bereaved needlessly because they despised and rejected the advice and warnings of those who know better than them.

Mr Prior: He is making serious charges which I believe he has absolutely no justification for making. He is a man who apparently except him knows that terrorists do not need the excuse of an Assembly to carry out their activities. They have carried them out for the past 12 years.



Your move or mine? At the four-day annual Open Go tournament in Covent Garden, London, which began on New Year's Day, about 150 enthusiasts from all over Europe are pitting their skills on this 3,500-year-old game (photograph: John Voos).

For the record

Thatcher's message is 'no compromise'

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mrs Margaret Thatcher promised her supporters on Friday in a new year message that the resolution which characterized the Government's handling of the Falklands conflict will continue to be applied to its running of the economy.

The Government will not compromise on its economic policies in the run-up to the general election because 1983 will begin to show that the British people are benefiting from the resolute approach. That was the Prime Minister's pledge in a buoyant message which nevertheless acknowledged that the cure for high unemployment could be long and arduous.

It amounted to her opening shot in the election campaign and made plain to her opponents that she will not hesitate to play the Falklands card in the coming months.

Mrs Thatcher gave no precise hint of her thinking on the timing of the election but promised that the Government, far from having run out of steam, was "bubbling with ideas". She said that in 1983 ministers would be preparing their programme for the next Parliament.

Her statement that "We have always believed that turning Britain would be a 10-year task" could be interpreted as meaning that she still hoped to go the full term into 1984. Mr John Biffen, Leader of the Commons and a close supporter, said his view was that there would not be an election before next autumn.

While urging the men to tighten their belts he offers no prospect of more money except on a local basis.

"We have explained to the unions that for 1983 we cannot afford the luxury of a central pay award. But this business will be prepared to develop the local payments schemes linked to their programme to reduce costs."

Mr Ian MacGregor, the British Steel chairman, has issued a grim new year message to workers warning them of further cuts in the industry's fight for survival. In a letter to employees, Mr MacGregor pleaded with workers to "buckle down" in a year when there will be no central pay award.

Mr John Townsend (Bridlington, C): Can he reassure the industry that if Danish boats do not move to fish within the 12-mile limit, the orders that he has placed before the House will be adequate and the means of protection will be adequate to arrest the walkers and prosecute them?

Mr Walker: Yes.

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Lebanese talks please Israel despite deadlock

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

A new attempt to break the deadlock over normalization of relations which has so far prevented the drawing up of an agreement agenda between Israeli and Lebanese negotiators will take place today when the third round of direct talks open with American participation in the Lebanese town of Khalde.

Despite the deadlock, Israeli ministers have expressed satisfaction at the atmosphere of the talks so far. Yesterday Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Foreign Minister, and Mr David Kimche, Israeli spokesman at the talks, briefed the Cabinet on the hours of discussion held last week.

The Cabinet also heard of new security measures taken by Israel in an effort to reduce the unacceptably high level of casualties among its troops based in the Lebanese Chouf mountains - the scene of continuing clashes between Christian and Druze militiamen.

The Israeli negotiators have been instructed both by Mr Shamir and Mr Ariel Sharon, the Defence Minister, to stand firm on their basic demand that the concept of normalization, if the precise word itself should be expressed as an important item on the negotiating agenda. The Lebanese have been pressing for future relations to be within the framework of the 1949 armistice agreement with Israel regards as null and void.

Failure to reach any agreement on the precise definition of normalization, a term which the Lebanese Government regards as unacceptable in view of its own vulnerable position in the Arab world, is believed to be the central sticking point that has prevented the drawing up of an agenda for beginning the talks proper. All American compromise suggestions have so far been rejected.

One idea which will be made this week is the establishment of sub-committees in which controversial issues such as normal relations could initially be discussed away from the main plenum. Israel has indicated that its delegation will be willing to compromise on the wording but not on the principle of normalization which it is hoped will lead to something close to a peace treaty.

The Israelis appear underlined by the strong resistance from Lebanon to the concept of normalization. Political observers here are convinced that it is one price which the Begin Government is determined to extract as a result of the costly war.

The foreign ministry also points out that Israel has already made two important concessions by dropping its demands that a formal peace treaty be signed and that Jerusalem be one of the two venues for the twice weekly talks which are now expected to drag on for months.

It was private contacts between Mr Sharon and unidentified Lebanese officials close to President Gamsayel of Lebanon that led to the breakthrough last month which enabled the present historic negotiations to begin. These contacts have convinced some members of the Israeli Government that the *de facto* creation of normal ties with Lebanon remains a viable prospect.

● CAIRO: Mr Yassir Arafat, the Palestine liberation organization leader, was quoted yesterday as saying the PLO would continue the "loud politics" of military action against Israel while also supporting bids for Middle East peace (Reuters reports).

On President Reagan's peace plan, Mr Arafat said in an interview in Tunis that he was aware the American Administration did not intend to apply pressure on Israel to make it more flexible towards the plan. In Cairo, Egypt said yesterday that improved relations with Israel could only be guaranteed if the Israelis withdrew from Lebanon, started peace talks on the Palestinian issue and agreed to negotiate the future of the disputed area of Tabaa.

● TEL AVIV: A strike by civil servants and public sector employees ended on Friday after the Government agreed to union demands for a 12 per cent wage rise (Reuters reports).

Sharon avoids questioning

From Our Own Correspondent, Jerusalem

A last minute legal agreement yesterday prevented Mr Ariel Sharon, the Israeli Defence Minister, from having to make his second appearance on oath before the three-man inquiry investigating last year's Beirut massacre.

The controversial minister had been summoned to face cross-examination by Major General Yehoshua Saguy, the director of Israel's military intelligence. But it was agreed by lawyers acting for the two men that Mr Sharon would not have to face the scheduled questioning after he had submitted written answers to two questions which have not been published.

Both men were among nine senior Israeli political and military figures warned by the commission that its final report

might "harm" their standing. According to Israeli sources, General Saguy wished to question Mr Sharon because he contends that he did warn both the Government and the minister of the danger of sending the Phalangists into West Beirut.

Last night a commission spokesman said that the written answers from Mr Sharon meant that the panel had now completed hearing testimony from the nine - including Mr Menachem Begin the Prime Minister - who were formally warned that they might be found in dereliction of duty.

Although no final date has yet been set for completion of the report, it is understood that interim findings could be made public before the end of this month.

The speed with which the

commission has undertaken its delicate task has impressed diplomats monitoring its work. There is now a consensus among foreign observers that any fears that it might provide a whitewash of the Government's role have been eliminated.

Most political parties have been marking time until the report is finished. It could be the catalyst forcing the country into early elections which Mr Begin has been pressing for, but which until now have been blocked.

The Prime Minister has let it be known that he will immediately attempt to bring about an election if, even the slightest blame is directed against him personally. Should that prove the case, the most common date now being mentioned by commentators is November.



Solar cooking: Chefs at a restaurant in Guangzhou, south China, cooking chickens by solar energy.

New York bombs main police

From Christopher Thomas, New York

A Puerto Rican terrorist group is believed to have been responsible for a series of bombings at government buildings in Lower Manhattan and Brooklyn on New Year's Eve.

The explosions struck police headquarters and two federal office buildings during a 90-minute period.

One policeman lost a leg and two bomb squad detectives suffered serious eye injuries. One of the detectives also lost all the fingers of his right hand, and may have been permanently deafened. They were wearing armoured suits, which almost certainly saved their lives.

The bombs are believed to have been planned by the FALN (Armed Forces of National Liberation) which has claimed responsibility for about 100 bomb attacks that killed six people during the past eight years, in support of demands for independence for Puerto Rico.

Four bombs exploded on New Year's Eve and a fifth was dismantled. After the third blast a caller to a New York radio station said: "This is FLAN. We are responsible for the bombings in New York today."

Scientists achieve nuclear fusion

Princeton, New Jersey (AP) - Princeton University scientists, pleased that they successfully started an experimental nuclear fusion reactor, say they plan to begin regular tests in April aimed at producing a useful source of energy.

They hope that their tests will lead to commercial generation of electricity by nuclear fusion by the year 2020.

Fusion is the forcing together of light atoms to produce heavier atoms and a release of energy. It is the opposite of fission, the process used by nuclear power plants in which heavy uranium atoms split apart to produce lighter atoms and a shower of energetic subatomic particles.

Princeton's Tokamak fusion test reactor operated successfully for 50 milliseconds - barely a blink of an eye - in its first test as scientists worked overtime to complete their project by Christmas.

That first test produced no significant energy, but was described as "magical event" by Mr Harold Furth, Director of the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, which built the \$31.4m (nearly £200m) research reactor under a grant from the US Department of Energy.

The aim is to produce a sustained reaction. Fusion reac-

tors, like fission plants would use heat to produce steam to drive the turbine generators that produce electricity.

Princeton's reactor uses a Tokamak design, a type devised in the Soviet Union in 1950. Tokamak is the Russian acronym for "toroidal magnetic chamber," a doughnut-shaped container in which powerful magnets are used to squeeze and control a hot, ionized gas.

Mr Furth said his group hopes to begin regular test in April, slowly introducing changes such as different types of fuel. The group is confident that by 1986 it can reach the "break-even" point, when the fusion process will produce as much energy as the reactor consumes in the form of electricity for its magnets and other equipment.

"By 2020, we could see serious commercialization start," Mr Furth said.

The scientists emphasized fusion's advantages as an energy source: the hydrogen isotopes are extracted from ordinary seawater, and it does not pose a major nuclear hazard because any accident would cause an immediate end of reactions and cooling.

Fusion experiments have been conducted in many countries since the 1950s.

Iran expels envoy for 'visa insult'

Tehran (AFP) - Two Australian diplomats have been expelled from Iran for "insulting Islamic principles" because they asked two women to remove their head-dress for visa photographs, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday.

On Friday Australia announced it had ordered two officials from the Iranian Embassy in Canberra to leave the country in retaliation for the expulsion of its diplomats.

Mr Anthony Street, Australia's Foreign Minister, said Iran had given no explanation for the decision.

Tehran Radio yesterday quoted the spokesman as saying: "Two sisters who went to the (Australian) Embassy for a visa were insulted and humiliated by these two employees who asked them for photographs without the proper Islamic dress."

Islamic dress specifically requires women to cover their heads in all official identification photographs in Iran.

In an address marking the birthday of the prophet Muhammad yesterday, Ayatollah Khomeini called on Muslims everywhere to take action to "chop off the hands of the elements of the great powers".

Police keep Miami riot area sealed

New York - A large contingent of police continued to seal off the predominantly black Miami slum area of Overtown after the riots last Tuesday and Wednesday (Christopher Thomas writes).

Residents had to prove identity before being allowed through checkpoints. Close surveillance was being kept of the Liberty City ghetto where 18 people died in race riots in 1980.

An internal police inquiry is being conducted into the fatal shooting by a policeman of a black youth in a video games parlour. In the rioting and looting that followed, one person died and 21 were injured.

Life term for Mafia 'caliph'

Naples (Reuters) - Luigi Volaro, aged 42, an underworld leader nicknamed "the caliph", was jailed for life for the murder of his former male secretary who joined a rival clan of the Camorra, the Naples mafia. Several women belonging to his private harem sobbed as he was led away.

Police captured Volaro last March from a fortified bunker he had built on the slopes of Vesuvius. He is due for trial later for murdering his former lover.

Haiti blast

Port-au-Prince (Reuters) - A car, believed to contain a bomb, exploded near the Haitian presidential palace here, killing a passer-by, sources close to the Government said.

All debris had been cleared away when reporters arrived. President Duvalier was not thought to have been in the palace at the time.

Away blaze

La Linea (Reuters) - Two Gibraltar fire engines went to the aid of Spanish firemen fighting a blaze in an 11-storey block of flats in this frontier town on New Year's Day, although the "blaze" is not officially open to vehicles. They brought longer ladders.

Party murder

New York (Reuters) - Patricia Cummings, aged 14, was charged with second degree murder after the death by stabbing of a 14-year-old boy who attended a New Year's eve party at her Long Island home.

How to create a good climate for business in a tough business climate.

Installing a new heating system takes time. It takes space. And it takes money. Installing the latest slimline storage heaters takes less of all three. And gives you all the comfort you need.

LESS SPACE. Take the Creda SupaSlim TSR in the picture. As you'll notice, it's slimmer than ever - just 7 inches deep. So it doesn't waste space. And it's styled to be elegantly unobtrusive, wherever you put it. Which can be almost anywhere you like.

LESS TIME. Because these heaters need no plumbing system or flues - just a simple wiring job - they can be installed almost anywhere quickly and cheaply - often in less than a day. For significantly less than conventional central heating.

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Private schools for China

From David Bonavia, Peking

The Chinese authorities are encouraging different kinds of stop-gap measures, including private schools to make up the deficiency of teachers, schoolrooms, books and equipment, which is the legacy of the Cultural Revolution and its assault on formal schooling.

In Peking and provincial cities, unemployed intellectuals have opened schools for private students offering courses in such diverse subjects as tailoring, foreign languages, typing and chicken-raising.

There are also private art and drama schools, and courses in accounting and the use of the abacus. Typical fees range from about £3 to £6 for a half-year course.

This means that a class of around 30 pupils can provide a private teacher with a living wage by Chinese standards, and

there are few urban families which really could not afford the fees.

The disadvantage of private teaching, according to one person who has been concerned with it, is that there is no guarantee of a job at the end of the course. University students are automatically given jobs when they graduate, and state school leavers go onto a waiting list for employment.

Some parents prefer to send their children to a private school because the pupils observe better discipline. At some secondary schools the level of discipline is very low.

The five-year plan recently disclosed at the session of the National People's Congress lays down the task of making primary attendance universal in the rural areas, and

junior secondary attendance universal in cities. Many rural children do not attend school, or attend only for a year or two, because their parents need their labour in the fields, or the school is too far away.

The official estimate of illiterate and barely literate people of school age and above is put at more than 200 million out of a total population of more than 1,000 million.

Emphasis is being placed on opening more technical colleges and including more technical subjects in school curricula, but the shortage of equipment and raw materials is a problem.

The country has turned its back on Mao Tse-tung's disparagement of formal education, but the damage done in the late 1960s and early 1970s is severe, and cannot be repaired in a hurry.

TENDERS MUST BE LODGED AT THE BANK OF ENGLAND, NEW ISSUES ONLY, WAITING STREET, LONDON, EC4M 9AA NOT LATER THAN 10.00 A.M. ON THURSDAY, 6TH JANUARY 1983, OR AT ANY OF THE BRANCHES OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND OR AT THE GLASGOW AGENCY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND NOT LATER THAN 3.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 5TH JANUARY 1983.

ISSUE BY TENDER OF £500,000,000
2½ per cent EXCHEQUER STOCK, 1987
MINIMUM TENDER PRICE £84.00 PER CENT

PAYABLE IN FULL WITH TENDER
INTEREST PAYABLE HALF YEARLY ON 24TH FEBRUARY AND 24TH AUGUST

This Stock is an investment falling within Part II of the First Schedule to the Trustee Investments Act 1961. Application has been made to the Council of the Stock Exchange for the Stock to be admitted to the Official List.

THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND are authorised to receive tenders for the above Stock.

The principal of and interest on the Stock will be a charge on the National Loans Fund, with recourse to the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom.

The Stock will be repaid at par on 24th February 1987.

The Stock will be registered at the Bank of England or at the Bank of Ireland, Belfast, and will be transferable in multiples of one penny, by instrument in writing in accordance with the Stock Transfer Act 1953. Transfers will be free of stamp duty.

Interest will be payable half-yearly on 24th February and 24th August. Interest will be deducted from payments of more than £5 per annum. Interest warrants will be transmitted by post. The first payment will be made on 24th August 1983 at the rate of £1.50 per £100 of the Stock.

Tenders must be lodged at the Bank of England, New Issues Only, Waiting Street, London, EC4M 9AA not later than 10.00 A.M. ON THURSDAY, 6TH JANUARY 1983, or at any of the branches of the Bank of England or at the Glasgow Agency of the Bank of England not later than 3.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 5TH JANUARY 1983. Tenders will not be repaid before 10 a.m. on Thursday, 6th January 1983 at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, 11th January 1983.

Each tender must be accompanied by a cheque or cash for the minimum tender price which tenders will be accepted, is £84.00 per cent. Tenders must be made at the minimum price, or at higher prices which are multiples of 25p. Tenders lodged without a price being stated will be deemed to have been made at the minimum price.

Tenders must be accompanied by payment in full, i.e. the price tendered (minimum of £84.00) for every £100 of the nominal amount of the Stock, plus interest on the amount of the Stock tendered for, being a minimum of £100 and in a multiple of £100 and in a multiple of £100.

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Portuguese right looks to Eanes for help

LISBON (Reuters) - Portugal's government crisis entered its third week yesterday with an enfeebled and divided right looking to its arch-enemy, President Eanes, to save it from an early general election.

Efforts to form a new coalition after the resignation of Senator Francisco Pinto Balsemão, the prime minister on December 19 have deeply split the three-year-old right-wing alliance of Christian Democrats, Social Democrats, monarchists and independents.

The Christian Democrats, yesterday appeared to be rapidly crumbling after the party's grassroots launched a campaign to disown any leaders who tried to form a new government with their coalition partners.

Senator Diogo Freitas do Amaral, the party's president and founder, resigned last Wednesday in protest at the Social Democrats' choice of Senator Vitor Pereira Crespo, former Education Minister, as the new Prime Minister. He was followed on Saturday by Senator Basilio Horta, the acting party chief.

Senator Pereira Crespo, a political protégé of the outgoing Prime Minister, said in a radio interview on Saturday night that he was confident of forming a strong government.

The decision on whether to allow the right to form a new government or call a snap election rests with President Eanes, a bitter foe of the coalition.

The next elections are not due until 1984, but the President has said he would only endorse the alliance's candidate if all coalition parties clearly showed support for him.

The social democrats monarchists and Christian Democrats opposed the President's reelection in December, 1980.

Letters of resignation in respect of Stock allocated, being the only form in which the Stock may be transferred prior to registration, will be despatched by post at the risk of the tenderer, but the despatch of any letter of resignation will be held in suspense until the tenderer's cheque has been paid. In the event of such withholding, the tenderer will be notified by letter by the Bank of England of the acceptance of his tender and of the amount of Stock allocated to him, subject to such payment of the Stock as allocated.

No allocation will be made for a less amount than £100 Stock. In the event of partial allocation, or of tenders at prices above the allotment price, the excess amount paid will, where refunded, be returned by cheque despatched by post at the risk of the tenderer. If no allocation is made the amount paid will be returned by cheque. Non-payment on presentation of a cheque in respect of the Stock allocated will render the allocation of such Stock liable to cancellation. Interest at a rate equal to the London Inter-Bank Offered Rate for seven day deposits in sterling ("LIBOR") plus 1 per cent per annum may, however, be charged on the amount payable in respect of any allotment of Stock of which payment is accepted after the due date. Such rate will be determined by the Bank of England by reference to market quotations on the due date for such payment. For LIBOR obtained from such sources as sources as the Bank of England shall consider appropriate.

Letters of resignation may be split into denominations of multiples of £100 on written request received by the Bank of England, New Issues, Waiting Street, London, EC4M 9AA, or by any of the Branches of the Bank of England, or at the Glasgow Agency of the Bank of England, 25 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow, G1 2EB; at the Bank of Ireland, Moyle Buildings, 1st Floor, 20 Colander Street, Belfast, BT1 9BN; at Mullineaux & Co., 13 Moorgate, London, EC2R 6AN; or at any office of The Bank of England in the United Kingdom.

BANK OF ENGLAND LONDON 30th December 1982

THIS FORM MAY BE USED TENDER FORM

This form must be lodged at the Bank of England, New Issues Only, Waiting Street, London, EC4M 9AA not later than 10.00 A.M. ON THURSDAY, 6TH JANUARY 1983, or at any of the Branches of the Bank of England or at the Glasgow Agency of the Bank of England not later than 3.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 5TH JANUARY 1983.

Amount of Stock tendered for Multiple

£100-£1,000 2500

£1,000-£10,000 25,000

£10,000-£100,000 250,000

£100,000-£500,000 2,500,000

£500,000 or greater 25,000,000

Sum enclosed, being the amount required for payment in full, i.e. the price tendered (minimum of £84.00) for every £100 of the nominal amount of Stock tendered for (shown in Box 1 above):

The price tendered per £100 Stock, being a multiple of 25p and not less than the minimum tender price of £84.00:-

U/W request that any letter of allotment in respect of Stock allocated to me/us be sent by post to my/our name at the address shown below.

Dated

SIGNATURE OF, OR ON BEHALF OF, TENDERER

PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS

MR/MRS MISS

FORNAMES IN FULL

SURNAME

FULL POSTAL ADDRESS:-

POST-TOWN

COUNTY

POSTCODE

T

A separate cheque must accompany each tender.

The price tendered must be a multiple of 25p and not less than the minimum tender price. If no price is stated, this tender will be deemed to have been made at the minimum tender price. Each tender must be for one amount and at one price.

The explosion occurred at the end of a period of intensified anti-government guerrilla activity following a South African raid on December 9 against the independent black enclave of

Johannesburg (Reuters) - A bomb explosion yesterday caused slight damage to the Johannesburg Magistrates' Court, just 200 yards from the city's security police headquarters in John Vorster Square.

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Anniversaries of 1983

JANUARY

- 2 Captain Onslow of HMS Clio hoisted the British flag at Port Soledad, the Falklands Islands, the Argentines having been ordered to leave, 1833.
- 3 Clement Richard Attlee, first Earl Attlee, Prime Minister, born, London, 1883.
- 13 Christoph Graupner, composer, born, Kirchberg, Germany, 1683.
- 17 Sir Compton Mackenzie, novelist, born, West Hartlepool, 1883.



Detail from *Found in the Street*, by Gustave Doré

- 23 Gustave Doré, painter and engraver, died, Paris, 1883.
- 24 Friedrich Flotow, composer, died, Darmstadt, Germany, 1883.
- 28 Charles George ("Chinese") Gordon, known as Gordon of Khartoum, born London, 1833.
- 29 Ruby M. Ayres, novelist, born, Watford, 1883.
- 29 Vasily Zhukovsky, poet, born, Tula, Russia, 1783.

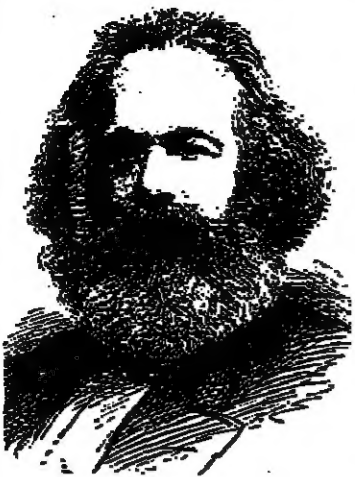
FEBRUARY



- 13 Richard Wagner, composer, died, Venice, 1883.
- 23 Samuel Pepys, diarist, born, London, 1633.
- 28 Michel de Montaigne, essayist, born, Dordogne, 1533.
- Rene-Antoine de Reanmur, scientist, born, La Rochelle, 1683.

MARCH

- 1 George Herbert, poet and divine, died, Bemerton, Wiltshire, 1633.
- 3 Sir Cyril Burt, psychologist, born, Stratford-on-Avon, 1883.
- 4 Bernard Gilpin - the "Apostle of the North" - died, Durham, 1583.
- 5 Henry II born, Le Mans, France, 1133.
- 10 Pedro Antonio de Alarcón, writer, born Guadix, Spain, 1833.
- 13 Joseph Priestley, scientist, born, Birstall Fieldhead, near Leeds, 1733.



- 14 Karl Marx, political philosopher, died, London, 1883.
- 16 John Bouchier, 2nd Baron Berners, writer, died, Calais, 1533.
- 19 Thomas Killigrew, playwright, died, London, 1683.
- 27 John Brown, Queen Victoria's personal servant, died, Windsor Castle, 1883.



- 28 Raphael, painter, born, Urbino, Italy, 1483.

APRIL

- 3 Washington Irving, writer, born New York, 1783.
- 9 Edward IV died, London, 1483.
- 10 Hugo Grotius, jurist, born, Delft, Netherlands, 1583.
- 12 Imogen Cunningham, photographer, born, Portland, Oregon, USA, 1883.
- 15 Stanley Melbourne Bruce, 1st Viscount Bruce of Melbourne, born, Melbourne, 1883.
- 21 Reginald Heber, missionary bishop, born, Malpas, Cheshire, 1783.
- 22 Richard Trevithick, inventor, died, Dartford, Kent, 1833.
- 25 William the Silent, born, Dillenburg Castle, Nassau, Netherlands, 1533.
- 29 David Cox, painter, born, Birmingham, 1783.
- 30 Edouard Manet, painter, died, Paris, 1883.

MAY

- 5 Archibald Percival, 1st Earl of Warrick, field-marshal, born Colchester, 1883.
- 7 James Garner Berry, 1st Viscount Kemsley, newspaper proprietor, born, Merthyr Tydfil, 1883.
- 9 Johannes Brahms, composer, born, Hamburg, 1833.
- 9 José Ortega y Gasset, philosopher, born, Madrid, 1883.
- 15 Edmund Keen, actor, died, Richmond, Surrey, 1833.
- 18 George Böhm, composer, died, Lunenburg, Germany, 1733.
- Walter Gropius, architect, born, Berlin, 1883.



Top: Clement Attlee shares a joke in Limehouse on the eve of Labour's landslide in 1945; above: Krakatoa before the eruption; and Sir Edward Burne-Jones at work on *The Star of Bethlehem*

- 20 William Chambers, publisher, died, Edinburgh, 1883.
- 23 Douglas Fairbanks, film actor, born, Denver, Colorado, USA, 1883.
- 28 Sir George Dyson, composer, born, Halifax, 1883.



A boy leaning against a table: detail from a painting by Edouard Manet

JUNE

- 4 Garnet Joseph, 1st Viscount Wootley, field-marshal, born, County Dublin, 1833.



John Maynard Keynes, as seen by Low

- 5 John Maynard Keynes, economist, born, Cambridge, 1883.
- 12 Margaret Haig Thomas, Viscountess Rhonda, founder of Time and Tide, born, London, 1883.
- 14 Edward Fitzgerald, writer, died, Mentor, Norfolk, 1883.
- 21 Lord William Russell, executed, London, for plotting to murder Charles II, 1683.

JULY

- 3 Franz Kafka, novelist, born, Prague, 1883.
- 6 Lodovico Ariosto, poet and playwright, died, Ferrara, 1533.
- 23 Alan Francis Brooke, 1st Viscount Alanbrooke, field-marshal, born, Baginbode-Bigorre, France, 1883.
- 24 Simón Bolívar, statesman, born, Caracas, Venezuela, 1783.
- 25 Alfredo Casella, composer, born, Turin, 1883.

- Matthew Webb, swimmer, drowned in an attempt to swim across the Niagara rapids, 1883.
- 29 Benito Mussolini, dictator, born, Predappio, Italy, 1883.

AUGUST

- 1 Parcel post came into operation, 1883.
- 9 Robert Moffat, missionary, died, Leigh, Kent, 1883.
- 15 Ivan Mestrovic, sculptor, born, Vrpolje, Yugoslavia, 1883.
- 21 John Gally, prize-fighter and horse-racer, born, Wick, 1783.
- 24 Frederick Marquis, 1st Earl of Woolton, politician, born, Manchester, 1883.
- 28 Sir Edward Burne-Jones, artist, born, Birmingham, 1833.
- 29 British Factory Act passed, 1833.



The first day of the parcel post, from the Illustrated London News, August 1883

SEPTEMBER

- 3 Ivan Turgenev, writer, died, Paris, 1883.
- 5 Christoph Martin Wieland, poet, born, Oberholzheim, Germany, 1733.



Top: Clement Attlee shares a joke in Limehouse on the eve of Labour's landslide in 1945; above: Krakatoa before the eruption; and Sir Edward Burne-Jones at work on *The Star of Bethlehem*



Queen Elizabeth by Marc Geerarts

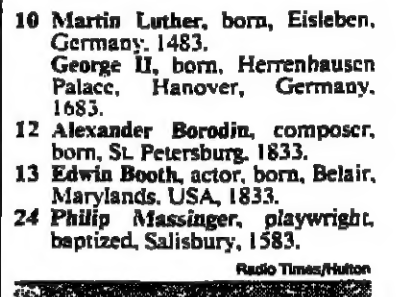
- 7 Hannah More, educator, died, Bristol, 1833.
- Elizabeth I, born, Greenwich Palace, 1533.
- 8 Volcanic eruption on the island of Krakatoa in the Straits of Sunda.
- 9 Sir Humphrey Gilbert, navigator, died, 1583.
- 11 Francois Couperin (le grand), composer, died, Paris, 1733.
- 12 Johann Zoffany, artist, born, Frankfurt, Germany, 1733.
- 18 Gerald Hugh-Tyrwhitt-Wilson, 14th Baron Berners, composer, born, Bridgnorth, 1883.
- 22 Jean Rameau, composer, 1683.
- 26 Charles Bradlaugh, radical, born, London, 1833.

OCTOBER

- 10 Henry Brooke, novelist, died, Dublin, 1783.
- 14 James II, born, London, 1633.
- Adam Lindsay Gordon, poet, born, Faial, Azores, 1833.
- 21 Alfred Nobel, founder of the Nobel prizes, born, Stockholm, 1833.

NOVEMBER

- 8 Sir Harold Bax, composer, born, London, 1883.
- Abbe Maximilian Stadler, composer, died, Vienna, 1833.



Martin Luther, 1483-1546



Anton Webern, 1883-1955

DECEMBER

- 3 Anton Webern, composer, born, Vienna, 1883.
- 11 Richard Doyle, caricaturist, died, London, 1883.
- 15 Isaac Walton, writer, died, Winchester, 1683.
- 25 Orlando Gibbons, composer, born, Oxford, 1583.
- Maurice Utrillo, artist, born, Paris, 1883.
- 28 St John Ervine, playwright, born, Belfast, 1883.

Compiled by Jack Lonsdale

Polish martial law may last all year

Warsaw (Reuters). - A senior Polish official has indicated that martial law, suspended at midnight on New Year's Eve, may not be finally lifted before the end of this year.

Mr Kazimierz Barcikowski, one of the longest-serving members of the Politburo, said that complete lifting of martial law required common efforts by the authorities and society.

"It may perhaps, in my opinion, be worked out in the coming year," he told the party daily *Trybuna Ludu*.

The authorities have said the final lifting will take place only when the security and economic conditions are considered right. They have declined to indicate when this might be.

The suspension of military rule, which is hedged in by conditions and follows a gradual easing of restrictions, has had little impact on the average Pole. The most obvious signs - road blocks, military vehicles and patrols in the streets, overnight curfew and internment - were gradually removed during the 12 months and 18 days since the military takeover.

Less visible aspects, including provisions to control the workforce and prevent re-emergence of a Solidarity-style mass labour movement, have been replaced by special powers which will have the same effect.

Workers who are found to have violated a generally-worded provision protecting law and order can be dismissed. A similar rule applies to students, and can apparently be invoked

to punish anyone taking part in a kind of protest.

Anyone found in possession of a document or bulletin considered to be against the state interest - a description which has been applied to all underground literature - can be jailed for up to five years.

Martial law was suspended without ceremony. A woman radio announcer gave the news shortly after midnight on New Year's Eve, saying the act followed a decree by the Council of State on December 19.

International direct-dial telephoning was restored over the new year period though the lines were solidly jammed. Diallers began to get used to the expression *kerunek zajety* (lined engaged) instead of the old *rozmonowa kontrolowan* (this call is monitored) which accompanied every call before the suspension of martial law.

Mr Barcikowski spoke of a "paralysis of willpower" in Poland, which he called a spiritual crisis. This was at the root of the country's economic and political crisis.

In a New Year's television address Mr Henryk Jablowski, the head of the State Council, called on Poles to display patience and persistence and to mobilize all their forces to overcome the country's crisis. He emphasized the need for unity.

The EEC is to extend trade sanctions against the Soviet Union for a further year to maintain its signal of disapproval to the Kremlin about the unsatisfactory progress to a real end of military rule in Poland (see Murray writes). Sanctions cover imports of luxury goods like caviare and watches and amount in all to about 2 per cent of all Soviet trade to the EEC.

Greece will take back its refugees

From Mario Mediano, Athens

The free repatriation of Greek political refugees of the 1946-49 civil war from East European countries that sheltered them for the past 34 years, is expected to begin this month.

The decision to permit the mass return of the former communist insurgents who fled across the northern borders after an abortive attempt to seize power in Greece, was announced by Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Prime Minister, on Christmas Day.

This week the Ministers of Interior and Public Order issued a joint decision authorizing all persons of Greek ethnic origin who had fled after the civil war, to return after signing a simple petition at the nearest Greek consulate. This would set in motion also the procedure for the restoration of the Greek citizenship to 22,000 of them who were deprived of it.

The condition that only those of Greek ethnic origin will be allowed to return, is clearly designed to keep out any political refugees who adhere to the Yugoslav view that some of them are not Greeks but members of an "oppressed" Slav-Macedonian minority in this country.

Greece rejects this theory, accepting only that an ever-diminishing number of Greeks in the frontier areas speak a Slav dialect. The Foreign Ministry recently protested to Belgrade over a hostile Yugoslav press campaign on this issue which the Greek Note described as a "falsification of history". Since the fall of the dictatorship in Greece in 1974, some 25,000 political refugees from the Eastern block were repatriated on an individual basis after a severe security screening. This procedure has now been abolished.

Amnesty after Kim release

For the record

Seoul (Reuters). - President Chun Doo Hwan's Government released more than 1,200 South Korean prisoners, including 48 political prisoners, on Christmas Eve under an amnesty granted after the departure for the United States of Mr Kim Dae Jung, a leading dissident.

Mr Kim arrived in Washington for medical treatment after being released from a 20-year jail term for plotting to overthrow the South Korean Government in 1980.

● **Ankara** - Three Soviet citizens of German origin were acquitted of hijacking a Soviet plane and sent to a refugee camp. They were expected to ask for political asylum in West Germany.

● **Los Angeles** - Gail Ann Jennings, aged 23, the British woman extradited to the United States, was sentenced to 16 months in jail for killing a 13-year-old boy in a hit-and-run accident.

● **Ankara** - One hundred and forty-five members of the illegal Turkish Communist Party were sentenced to prison terms of between two months and ten years on charges of founding a clandestine organisation. The same court acquitted 110 others.

● **Harare** - The Zimbabwe Government appointed Major General Josiah Tungamirai, aged 34, as an Air Vice-Marshal and chief of operations. He is Zimbabwe's first senior Air Force commander.

● **Japan** will increase defence spending by 4.5 per cent to 2,757,000 million yen (about £7,000m) in this year's budget.

● **Katmandu** - Yasuo Koto, the Japanese mountaineer who conquered Everest for the third time on Boxing Day, is believed to have died soon afterwards trying to rescue a fellow climber in distress. The pair have not been heard of since and the rest of the team were forced to return down the mountain to base camp.



Miss Sherry Lansing, aged 38, the first woman to head a big Hollywood studio, who has resigned as president of 20th Century Fox Film Productions because of frustration. *Chariots of Fire* was one of the films she failed to persuade Fox to back and distribute.

● **Marbella** - Thieves stole up to 1,000 million pesetas (more than £4m) in cash, bullion and jewellery in a Christmas holiday raid on a bank.

● **Vienna** - Dr Bruno Kreisky, the Austrian Chancellor, confirmed that he has been involved in efforts to bring about an exchange of war prisoners between Israel and the PLO.

● **Moscow** - The Kremlin decreed a limited amnesty for prisoners on Boxing Day to mark the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Union, but this did not appear to benefit hundreds of detained dissidents.

● **Washington** - The United States Congress adjourned until the New Year on Boxing Day after sending President Reagan legislation raising petrol taxes to pay for repairs to America's highways, bridges and mass transit systems.

● **Colombo** - President Jaye-

wardene of Sri Lanka has signed into law a constitutional amendment extending the country's parliamentary term to six years without a general election.

● **Nairobi** - Severe fuel shortages hit the city over Christmas after a large fire destroyed more than two million gallons of petrol and damaged the pipeline from Mombasa, the main port. Sabotage was ruled out.

● **New York** - Edwin Wilson, a former American spy said to have made millions of dollars selling arms, explosives and expertise to Libya, was sentenced to 20 years' jail and fined \$200,000 (about £130,000). He will serve about 13 years.

● **Johannesburg** - Mr Petrus Kotze, magistrate at the inquest into the death of Mr Neil Aggett, the detained white trade unionist found hanging in his police cell, found that Mr Aggett committed suicide. He exonerated South African police officers from criminal responsibility for Mr Aggett's death.

● **Brunswick**, West Germany - Klaus Decker, aged 19, an East German security guard who shot dead a colleague before fleeing to the West, was jailed for five years for manslaughter by a West German court.

● **London** - Britain is sending about 80 troops from Cyprus to join the multinational peace-keeping force in Lebanon.

● **Tegucigalpa** - Miss Xiomara Suazo, aged 32, daughter of the President of Honduras, was freed on Christmas Eve by the left-wing guerrillas who had kidnapped her nine days previously. She was reunited with her father.

● **Buenos Aires** - Judge Pedro Narvaiz, a senior Argentine judge, resigned and left the country because of a "feeling of disgust" at the government's refusal to heed his rulings on cases involving "disappeared" people.

OUTRAGE!

Jan Evans FRGS Electrode implanted in cat's brain

In Britain today, under the Cruelty to Animals Act 1876, millions of laboratory animals are subjected to violence... **Outrage!**

In 1981 dogs, cats, monkeys, pigs, sheep, goats, rabbits, guinea-pigs, rats and mice suffered 4,250,000 experiments... **Outrage!**

These experiments include blinding, scalding, irradiation, poisoning to death, mutilation and electric shocks... **Outrage!**

83% of all experiments in this country are conducted without an anaesthetic and thousands of animals are left to die in agony... **Outrage!**

Pity alone is not enough. Your help is urgently needed to bring about a change in the law which will release the laboratory animals from their lives of pain, misery and fear.

☐ Please send further information about Animal Aid's campaign to help laboratory animals.

☐ I wish to support Animal Aid's campaign with a donation of £

T2

Name _____

Address _____

111 High Street - Tonbridge - Kent

Honours and
dishonours

In the New Year's Honours Douglas Lindsay Youd was, very properly, awarded the MBE for services to the sport of wood chopping in the state of Tasmania. There are, though, some even less likely awards which remain to be announced, and PHS has been scouring the finest of the public prints all year in search of suitable nominees. Few of these newsmakers made the front pages, yet their achievements surely earned them their small share of posterity. Scare of the Year Award: To the US Medical Association, which warned air stewards not to wear silk stockings with silicone implants that their breasts could explode in flight. Overstatement of the Year Award: To FC Alan Oram, who said the defendant called him a fascist pig, and added: "He even called me a West Ham supporter." Understatement of the Year Award: To the Scottish vegetarian who stole a packet of pork chops and told the court: "I seem to do stupid things." Devotion to Duty Award of the Year: Joint winners: Douglas Alexander of the Hotel Bristol, who put himself in the deep freeze in order to monitor the consistency of the Duke of Edinburgh's sorbet. The staff at Gatwick Airport, who cleaned the tarmac for the Pope to kiss. Household Hint of the Year Award: To the Department of Health, spokesman who urged old people to wrap up, using old newspapers if necessary, if they were having trouble keeping their homes warm. Discovery of the Year Award (Environment): To the man in the *Khaleel Times* headline: "Much about earth still unknown, says expert." Economy Package of the Year Award: To the three families spending a fortnight's holiday at Luton Airport. "We weren't actually trying to get anywhere," said one of them. "But we do like a game of cards." Job Creation Scheme of the Year Award: To the East Anglian businessman who planned to turn a former Sunday school chapel into a brothel. Discovery of the Year Award (Biography): To the *Swindon Evening Advertiser*, which printed that for more than 70 years D. H. Lawrence had been regarded as the lawrence of a hero in Middle Eastern affairs. Conservation of the Year Award: To the British Airports Authority who preserved the four-inch piece of Gatwick concrete kissed by the Pope. Employment Opportunity of the Year Award: To West Hailam Parish Council, Yorkshire, which advertised for a "dog dirt hunker." Applicants were expected to have skills in hedgerow-burrowing and rural disguise. Strong moral character was also required to face the abuse of furious dog-owners. "An ideal person would be an ex-SAS man," said the advertisement. Dish of the Year Award: To Judy Bosh, novelist and lecturer, for her trout preparation: "I place large ones on the top rack of the dishwasher - square fish are better than long ones - then set it to the normal plate-washing programme. In fifty minutes they are perfectly cooked." Dog of the Year Award: To Peter Wall, curate of St. Mary's, Northwich, Staffordshire, who falls onto his hands and knees and yaps as visitors approach the church. "It is my special way of communicating," he said. Communication Studies Award of the Year: To the man who 23 years ago threw a bottle into the sea at Winterton, which has just been found at Winterton. Discovery of the Year (Fashion): To Bob Stickney, who found a Viking sock thrown away in York 1,000 years ago. It took 200 hours to dry out and cost £695 to preserve. Thinking of the Year Award: To the Curtis family of Mission, British Columbia, who early in the year bought a new life "in the middle of nowhere" believing that a third world war was a certainty. Their destination: East Falkland. Discovery of the Year Award (Sociology): To Liverpool's Council, who blamed the breakdown of social order in Toxteth on the teaching of Darwin's theory of evolution. Compliment of the Year Award: To the solicitor who commended his client for not living off the state: the client admitted swindling items worth £13 from a Debenhams store. Sink of the Year Award: To the residents of Ringwood in Hampshire who opposed a farmer's plan to keep pigs near their homes. The house which stood to lose most, being next door to the proposed farrow barn, was Poch Cottage. Clemency of the Year Award: To the Brighton police who withdrew the charge against a mouth organist accused of begging. He had told magistrates it was impossible to play the instrument and ask for money at the same time. Discovery of the Year Award (Medicine): To the Scottish doctors who helped a "politics mad" scumallor out of a coma by playing taped speeches of David Steel and other Liberal leaders. Name of the Year Award: To the lost, unidentified dog with a limp, a piebald left eye, no tail and half a right ear, name: Lucky. Prediction of the Year Award: To the Met Office, for predicting that weather forecasts may be more inaccurate next year.

Ten years in Europe, 1: Helmut Schmidt

Time to forget the
'British problem'

This week marks the tenth anniversary of British entry into the EEC. *The Times* has asked six senior political figures from Europe and the Commonwealth to reflect on the hopes - lost and

fulfilled - of a turbulent decade for the European ideal. Today Helmut Schmidt, Chancellor of West Germany 1974 to 1982, argues that there is no longer room for British doubts.

I have to start by declaring a personal interest: my long-standing attachment to Britain and my commitment to a European Community which includes Britain. I grew up in Hamburg, where some well-established citizens are proud of having their shirts tailored in London (conveniently ignoring the fact that, today, they are made in Hong Kong just as those they can buy in Hamburg). My father had no money to spend on British shirts but made the great financial effort to send his 13-year-old boy for three weeks to attend school in Manchester.

My experience in postwar Hamburg under British occupation confirmed my childhood impressions. A distinguished military governor, Sir Henry Vaughan Berry, did much to introduce young Hamburg politicians into the British tradition of democracy, fairness and pragmatism. Later on, having learned to look beyond the borders of my home town and my country, I realized of course that even the much admired Britain was no longer the hub of the political universe. It was with the eyes of an Anglophile that I discovered the United States and realized their dominant role in the postwar world. Only later in life and as a result of much more political experience did I enlarge on this Anglo-American preference to become a convinced Francophile.

It was against this background that in 1957 during the parliamentary vote on the EEC treaty, I abstained because I was convinced that a European construction without Britain would not last. I also felt that Britain turning its back on the continent would face an uncertain political future as an island somewhere between Europe and America and would not be able to make the full contribution towards shaping the postwar world I hoped for.

Britain's relationship with, and membership of, the European Community has turned out so far to be one of those troubled partnerships which seem to be the hallmark of many efforts of western democracies to cooperate more closely. Deeply ingrained national traditions and political perceptions have a tendency to stay on like the grin of the Cheshire cat long after the cat's body - the historical, political and economic interests of the nation - has vanished. The result is a history of missed opportunities, hurt feelings and, last but not least, real achievements.

So I believe it was certainly a mistake for Britain to miss the opportunity of fashioning the rules of the European club as a founding member in the mid-1950s. But at the same time Britain was still the

strongest European power, although clearly in a different class from the two superpowers. Now we know that during the 1950s and 1960s Britain's economic position fell behind that of some European partners; its special relationship with America, lost weight compared with Washington's relations with some other European countries; the relations between France and Germany developed slowly into a central element within Europe. De Gaulle could insist on his vision of a Europe which did not include Britain and its Atlantic connexion.

It also turned out to be a mistake to believe, after Britain joined the Community in 1972, that economic and political facets, created during 15 successful years of the Club, could be undone. Successive rounds of negotiations put a severe strain on Britain's role in the Community. In Britain, they encouraged half-heartedness in the British commitment towards Europe. They helped to nurse illusions about political alternatives which, as successive British governments have justly emphasized, didn't exist. On the Continent, lingering doubts about Britain's European commitment revived nostalgic feelings about an "ideal" Community of Six among convinced Europeans and weakened the Community in the eyes of the general public.

In November 1974 I warned the Labour Party Conference in London that close cooperation within the Community afforded us the only chance to survive the world's structural economic and energy crisis and to save our people from the twin evils of unemployment and inflation. Pointing to our German interests I left no doubt where the German Social Democrats thought the British interests were. I deliberately appealed to the solidarity of socialist parties, because European cooperation had long ceased to be a matter for governments and diplomats only.

I am glad that the last TUC Congress took up this important point, calling for consultations with the other European trade unions before any negative decision on British membership would be taken. I am confident that, in the end, British self-interest and pragmatism, European solidarity and the facts of modern life will prove stronger than conference resolutions of the past. After all, 43 per cent of Britain's trade is now with the Community. And overseas investors leave no doubt that they are interested in Britain essentially as a European Community member state.

The "British problem" has been created by history. Britain did not take part in the original political bargain of national interests underlying the creation of the community.

When, after 15 years of community life, Britain eventually joined, the first decade of British membership, unfortunately, coincided with the end of a long period of economic growth in Britain as well as in Europe and the rest of the world. Financial strains and internal political unrest made for even tougher political bargaining than usual and prevented more generous solutions.

The preoccupations with the "British problem" also tended to blur the image of the Community and what it achieved during those ten difficult years. As *para pro toto* I mention the creation of the European Council, the direct elections to the European Parliament and the European Monetary System (EMS) as well as the remarkable concert of foreign policies within the European Political Cooperation (EPC). We managed to provide, under increasingly difficult economic and political circumstances, the necessary political leadership within the Community. We succeeded in enlarging the democratic base of the Community and its policies. We contributed towards monetary stability in the midst of hectic and dangerous fluctuations on the world currency market. Increasingly, Europe's voice was heard and listened to in the concert of international politics.

Undeniably, the unfortunate survival of the "British problem" also points to some unresolved questions within the Community as such, not all the heritage of Britain's agonizing relationship with the Community before 1972. We will have to be open for reforms of community policies and structures if we want the Community to survive and to function in the future. After 25 years it would seem to be quite normal to think of reforming what has been a pioneering institutional and political achievement without precedent.

But for the sake of the Community and for the sake of Britain it is time that we stop talking about the so-called "British problem". To do so requires political leadership at the bargaining table in Brussels and - much more difficult and much more important - at home.

The British Government seems to be on the right track in reminding the British public that the facts of the modern world have committed Britain irrevocably to Europe. I am also happy to note that the Falklands crisis, which aroused deep feelings in Britain and a considerable, though not fully appreciated, sense of loyalty in Western Europe, apparently did nothing to detract the Government from its European path.

I am confident that Britain's justified wish to reduce its contribution to the European Community budget can be dealt with adequately



within the normal bargaining process of the Community without undue political drama. There is certainly a good case for reforming the Common Agricultural Policy and for limiting its costs. But I have to warn my British friends: it can only be a gradual change and a slow adaptation. We Germans have known from the start that CAP was the political price we had to pay for the founding of the Community.

For me the Community remains the core of that part of Europe in which we live and which provides the political chance to help shape the future of our societies. Therefore, I remain convinced that the European Community should not be without Britain. The events of the last decade, however, teach us a strong lesson: British membership will only be a success for the Community and all its members, including Britain, if we now finally stop talking of any specifically British problem.

We have to solve sufficiently difficult questions of internal management and adaptation of existing economic and political structures which arise in connection with the accession of Spain and Portugal to the Community. But, most of all, we will have to see to it that Europe lives up to the enormous world political and economic challenges of the 1980s. The world will only respect and listen to European interests and ideas if and only if we Europeans act together. This is true of our close friend and ally, the United States. This is certainly also true of the Soviet Union. The Community must remain the most powerful barrier against Soviet attempts at a policy of divide-and-rule vis-à-vis Western European nations.

After the many summit meetings with British prime ministers during the last eight years it became customary for us to congratulate each other for not having to discuss bilateral problems. I look forward to the day when a German chancellor on such an occasion would say: we had neither bilateral nor Community problems to discuss and we were able to devote all our time to working out European answers to the challenges of world economic and political questions.

I am in full agreement with my friend, Lord Carrington, when he writes: "The more Europe has a voice in world affairs, the better Britain's own interests will be served. And the stronger Britain can become, the stronger Europe will be."

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Next: Peter Shore

Gerald Kaufman

But who is
there to defend
Heseltine?

"Staying close to your telephone?" inquired Mr Jim Molyneux, the leader of the Official Ulster Unionists, when I encountered him the other day in the Members' Cafeteria at the House of Commons, almost deserted at the post-Christmas doldrums. He was jokingly referring to the dictum that, when a ministerial reshuffle is at hand, members of the government party never budge without leaving precise instructions as to how they may instantly be contacted.

If the Lobby grapevine is accurate, then any day now, possibly this week, the castles will be crowded with members of the administration who have been put on notice that they are to be called into 10 Downing Street or have already been there and learned their fate. Even Mr Michael Heseltine may make a rare appearance, since he is at the centre of rumours about who will be the next secretary of state for defence.

The view has been expressed that Mr Heseltine is just the man to take a firm grip on a department whose rebelliousness has irritated the Prime Minister. It is further reported that, for the very reason for which Mr Heseltine is said to be favoured, the Defence Staff have done their best to prevent him from being given command of their hideous fortress - so labyrinthine that even some of the messengers do not know their way about it - situated just off Whitehall.

The defence chiefs are right to be worried, but wrong about the problem they may face. If Mr Heseltine does take over, then the politician in charge of the nation's defences will not be a strong secretary of state who will boss the generals about, but a weak secretary of state who, whether he bosses them about or not, will forfeit their case whenever he presents it either in Parliament or in the Cabinet.

Mr Heseltine's reputation for being a tough minister stems from the Management Information System for Ministers (coilyly dubbed MIMS) that he has introduced to reorganize the way in which the Department of the Environment operates.

Mrs Thatcher is said to have been so impressed by this mystical process - embodied in innumerable lists and tables in a collection of hefty volumes - that she caused Mr Heseltine to give a teach-in about it to other secretaries of state (which, I am sure, will have made him even more popular with his colleagues than he was before). The internal management of a department has hitherto been regarded as the province of its top civil servant, the permanent secretary, rather than the political chief, who is expected to concern himself with policy. In any case, the MIMS system does not seem to have reversed the extraordinary record of policy failures that Mr Heseltine has accumulated in the past four years.

Not one item of DoE legislation has been passed in the form that he intended. Both his Local Government Bills had to be withdrawn and reintroduced in revised form, and were still mangled in their tormented progress through Parlia-

ment. His Housing Act was amended against his wishes. His Wildlife and Countryside Act, torn to pieces in the Lords and partly reconstructed in the Commons, is regarded as too weak by conservationists and too interventionist by farmers (both, from their respective points of view, being perfectly right). His Water Bill, like all his other legislation, is opposed by the local authorities. His Housing and Building Control Bill has infuriated charitable housing associations, whose properties it will sell off.

Mr Heseltine regularly loses major battles in Cabinet. Following his appointment as Minister for Merseyside, he has failed to obtain the funds he knows are needed for rehabilitating the inner cities. The Cabinet compelled him against his will to include referendums in his Local Government Finance Bill last year and then set back and smirked over his humiliation when the Commons forced him to drop a provision he had never himself wanted. In the Rate Support Grant settlement he announced last month, the Treasury prevented him from introducing an exemption from penalty which would have favoured dozens of Tory local authorities.



Mr Michael Heseltine: "a capacity for turning friends into enemies"

He has recently had to acknowledge defeat in the principal objective of his period of office, the reduction of local authority spending. He has been obliged to add £900m to local councils' budgets, compared with the sum allocated in the Public Expenditure White Paper issued five months previously. Yet, in his vain and botched pursuit of this aim, he has alienated local authority leaders even in his own party.

It is said that Mrs Thatcher wants a secretary for defence whose advocacy will win over those sections of the Cabinet with misgivings about the Government's nuclear arms policy. Far from being able to sway doubters, Mr Heseltine has an unenviable capacity for turning friends into enemies.

Indeed, the trepidation among the Defence Staff that Mr Heseltine will soon arrive at their department is matched only by the fear haunting the local authorities that he will not. The author is Labour MP for Manchester, Ardwick.

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Ted Simon

That was no lady
... that's a ghost

A week ago last Sunday I saw a ghost. I have never seen one before, nor can I recall, in a reliable memory span 45 years or so, ever meeting anyone else who did.

It ought to have been a shocking experience, the sort of thing that tiffs lives, shatters rationalist preconceptions, and turns at least a few hairs white overnight. It did none of those things. I have been, as it were, sitting on my ghost and waiting to be transformed but nothing has happened or, if it has, my best friends have yet to tell me.

There have been no uncharacteristic outbursts of generosity & *à la Scrooge* no chilling premonitions of doom, no parade of past iniquities or rehearsal of future crimes, not even a thrill of ineffable bliss with a promise of life in the hereafter.

Mine was no ghost from Shakespeare or Dickens. If I said Pinteresque I would be doing Pinter no favours. She, far from being a female ghost, I saw, was probably the least haunting ghost imaginable and, where that horripalant occupation is concerned, suffered from insuperable handicaps. In the first place, when I saw her I did not know she was a ghost at all. Secondly, she was the ghost of a live person, which must detract greatly from her capacity to inspire awe. Thirdly, she lives or has her non-being across the road from my mother in one of the world's more boring places - only a stone's throw from the A12 to Southern. Although a very dull ghost indeed, whose mediocrity served only to make her utterly convincing and, I hope, to lend more credence to this account.

It was a wet and dreary afternoon in Essex. With my wife and son I had hoped to call on a friend of my mother's, a kindly middle-aged widow. Her house lights were on and we rang the bell several times. Through her window I saw her walk from her kitchen and across her living room towards the front door. "Here she comes," I said. She was back-lit by the kitchen light and I could not see her face clearly, but she was solid enough otherwise and I recognised her distinctive gait.

When she failed to appear at the door I assumed that she had gone upstairs first. We rang several times more and waited on, in vain. I returned to my mother's house and

telephoned, assuming that the door bell was not functioning. There was no reply. I went back, perplexed, and rang her door bell again. Through the window I then saw her once more, less clearly, going back through her kitchen door, the light making a halo of her fluffed-out hair style. She resolutely refused to answer and I was somewhat concerned for her, but since she was evidently alive and walking I could think of no reason to make a fuss.

The next day she answered her telephone and explained that she had been away all day to visit her daughter, leaving the house empty and the lights on "for the burglars". Then I told her what I had seen. She paused.

"Well, to be quite honest, Edward," she said, "I'm not so shocked. I often think Len [her husband] is still here. Maybe I was guarding the house while I was away."

What am I to make of such a startlingly banal event? I was not drunk, drugged or suicidal and don't qualify for the usual assistance. Is there a Visionaries Anonymous number I can call? There's the vicar, of course, but it's not comfort I'm after.

I am, to tell the truth, slightly resentful. In various parts of the world where accounts of paranormal manifestations are a daily coin and the air feels thick with spirit life I made strenuous efforts to witness something of the sort, without success. Now I feel I am being nagged rather than haunted - reproved for my scepticism.

The Physical Research Society has informed me (by ordinary telephone) that it receives one or two reports of hauntings every week, most of them from people even as rational as I. Perhaps if my own ghost had been a headless monarch, or an anguished lady heckling me along the moonlight shade, I might be more enthusiastic, but I find I have no desire to meet other hauntings and swap tales of mystery and suspense. However, it is interesting to know that there are, apparently, hundreds of us, all with our lives mildly but quite definitively dislocated, wondering what to do about our ghosts.

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Will smog set the first Olympic record?

Los Angeles

When Prince Philip suggested that the 1984 Olympic equestrian endurance events be moved to San Diego County because the Los Angeles smog could harm the horses, Kenneth Hahn, the maverick member of the LA County Board of Supervisors (the publicly elected "barons" of California's largest county) was startled.

Supervisor Hahn, like many of the 13 million residents of this sprawling metropolis was left pondering the effects of the polluted air on the lungs and the performances of the thousands of athletes when they come here in the heart of summer.

Now Supervisor Hahn and other people want a concerted effort to try to improve the quality of air in time for the Games, 18 months from now.

Some of the proposed clean-up methods include staggering the work schedules of employees in the public and private sectors and even shutting down some of the most-pollutant industries during the Olympic fortnight. There is talk of organizing mass transit to take spectators to events and of improving smog-forecasting techniques. The Olympics happen to coincide with the hottest and often smoggiest time of the year.

No one disputes that the air here is among the worst in the world. Yet until recently, officials preparing for the first Olympics in California since the 1930s considered the county's pollution a dismal but unalterable fact of life, and efforts to combat the smog have been haphazard.

So far this year there have been some very first-time smog alerts in the LA basin, that flat valley between the mountains on one side and the Pacific ocean on the other. A first-stage alert means that the air has 0.20 parts of pollution in it for every one million parts air.

That may not sound too awful but barely had Prince Philip acted to protect the Olympic equines than the California Air Resources Board came out with more bad news, that concentrations of known cancer-causing compounds made up a permanent part of the county's breathable air and that carcinogens such as benzene gas, chloroform and dialkyl nitrosamines in the Los Angeles atmosphere were several hundred times greater than those allowed by the federal government in the nation's drinking water.

It all adds up to the fact that LA



Working out: Bob Girandola, of the University of Southern California, runs through an air quality test

air is becoming increasingly hazardous to health. That comes as no surprise, for having lived in the smog for several years before moving out of the city, I know firsthand what heavy smog days can do to a person.

The Air Quality Management District - who monitor smog levels daily - routinely announce smog alerts on radio, predicting "moderate eye irritation" for the populace. What they do not announce is that it can also produce severe headaches, nasal congestion and painful pressure across the forehead, not to mention lethargy, the mid-afternoon exhaustion that sets in on bad smog

Barbara laboratory. He says that heat and humidity combined with pollutants could make stadiums hell-holes for athletes, especially those in marathons and other long distance races. He adds: "The carbon monoxide level is also expected to go up with all those thousands of cars and buses bringing spectators to the games."

"Of course, if the air gets too bad, say above point 50 (parts per million of air) as has happened, it might be advisable to cancel the events of the day. However, I don't think anyone will do that - there's just too much money involved."

Supervisor Hahn is pressing for action and this week the Air Quality Management District got in on the act by offering a 10 point list of possible strategies for reducing the city's "skyline brown" - that halo of filthy air that often lines the Los Angeles skies.

The suggestions, like the supervisors', include staggering work hours and shutting down major industries. "Los Angeles has a chance to be a showcase, or to be embarrassed," said Brian Farria, who wrote the district report. "We have a bad enough reputation without a bad smog episode during the Olympics."

"Athletes competing in this, will be breathing deeply and taking in a lot of pollutants - doing all the things they're not supposed to do. It could cause them harm."

Bob Girandola, a professor of physical education at the University of Southern California in the heart of downtown Los Angeles runs every day and has done so for 10 years. He says: "It would be rather foolish to have the marathon or 10,000 metre races if the smog is bad."

He says some experts suggest holding the long-distance events in the early evening when the air has cooled and the worst of the smog has been blown away. There is even talk of starting the Games very early in the day.

Dr Horvath skips short of suggesting that the Olympics be moved from Los Angeles. "There were similar problems in Mexico City," he says. "But because long-range smog forecasts are not too accurate, it's really all in the lap of the gods. With luck, competing athletes could find they're participating in events on one of those rare Los Angeles days when sea breezes just blow all that dirty air away."

Ivor Davis

هكذا من الامم



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YEAR ON YEAR

Without the Falklands interlude and the birth of a royal heir there would not have been much to celebrate in Britain in 1982. The Government ground on with its economic programme of imposing necessary penance for previous excesses. Conquest of inflation has remained its first objective, and although the monetary mechanism that was supposed to bring that about has been partially discarded the rate tumbled in the latter part of the year. An annual inflation rate of 5 per cent is now above the horizon - historically high but a vast improvement on recent experience, and internationally competitive at last. That has been accompanied by a sharp fall in nominal interest rates made possible by a more relaxed stance on the part of the authorities in the United States.

These are notable achievements, good in themselves. Honest money is a part of honest life. But they have come with a rise in the costs they apparently entail: lost output and lost jobs. Neither in Britain nor in the industrial world as a whole is there yet an assurance that falling inflation and interest rates are themselves enough to revive and sustain a higher level of economic activity. That they are a precondition is hardly to be doubted. A reversal would be disastrous. But they have acted so far as a purge not a tonic.

Recession here and elsewhere has put the open trading system, to which most nations to their benefit subscribe, under mounting pressure of protection. At the same time the stability of the international financial order is threatened by an immediate debt crisis. Hence the immediate reaction of western governments to Opec's crumbling foundation. Paralyzed by the earlier imprudence of their bankers, they dare not take advantage of their market power to force down the price of oil - although the origin of their present woes (not the responsibility for them) lay in the cartelized power of the producers to force up the price.

In the normal course of politics all this could have been expected to sour opinion against the Government. The remorseless contraction of employment, lower real incomes for many of those in work, the headlong decline of some basic industries, were fit to inspire the Labour Opposition, embolden internal critics of government policy, and keep the Liberal-Social Democratic alliance buoyant. However, war in the South Atlantic interrupted the normal course of politics, and none of those consequences ensued.

It was an avoidable but, when it came, a necessary war. It was also a national experience to alter conduct. The instinct to protect one's own coincided with a principle of acknowledged force and clear application to the case: the right and duty to repel aggression and resist the imposition of alien rule. The campaign proved the overwhelming superiority of professional soldiers and sailors over conscript levies. Only three non-combatants were killed. The war was short, its outcome as clear as can be. Seldom have the words "mission accomplished" applied to warfare with such prompt and unambiguous finality.

A continuing political effect of that victory is the new confidence and assertion acquired by its authors, who number not only civilian ministers and military commanders, not only those who fought in or furnished the expeditionary force, but all whose full-hearted support of the enterprise was made known or could be assumed. They may be supposed to include a disproportionate share of the more creative and practical elements in the nation. Their present ascendancy enlarges the nation's capacity for action.

More specifically, the Prime Minister's political characteristics have been vindicated, and by extension the policies she has made her own have been reinforced. The volume of non-Thatcherite Conservative music has been turned down, which is of some significance in a year that is likely to see a general election.

The mastery in action so evident at the time stands in accusing contrast to the attitude of fatalism the Government encourages in respect of mass unemployment. A society that denies paid work to one in seven or eight of those who realistically seek it is a disordered society. The disorder may have to be accepted in transition, but it cannot be accepted without protest as an enduring condition. If Tory party managers rely on a calculation that because there are still many more people in work than out of work the number of three and a quarter million unemployed is electorally neutralized, they assume and enlist a corrupted public opinion.

Not everyone in Britain saw the Falklands war in primary colours. The churches showed signs of troubled minds and drew the fire of strident patriots. And the churches continue to give divided expression to similar anxieties on a vaster scale arising from the contemplation of nuclear war.

Arms races are not a primary

cause of war. Sir Edward Grey was wrong and right.

Great armaments lead inevitably to war. The increase of armaments produces a consciousness of the strength of other nations and a sense of fear. Fear begets suspicion and distrust and evil imaginings of all sorts, till each government feels it would be criminal and a betrayal of its country not to take every precaution, while every government regards the precautions of every other government as evidence of hostile intent. There is nothing "inevitable" about the passage from great armaments to outbreak of war, not even - in fact rather less - in the case of competitive nuclear armaments held by the superpowers. They do however, as Grey observed, have secondary effects of sowing mistrust, inducing nervousness, enlarging the risk of some catastrophic miscalculation of intention.

In the field of nuclear disarmament the prevention of proliferation is at least as high a prize as the reduction of nuclear arsenals held by the superpowers, since a greater risk of war springs from the spread of those weapons than from their multiplication in hands already possessing them. The Non-proliferation Treaty explicitly links the reduction of existing stockpiles with the renunciation of nuclear arms by others.

That relationship gives added importance to the two sets of disarmament talks now taking place between the United States and the Soviet Union. Mr Andropov's pre-Christmas conditional offer of missile reductions in the European theatre had a frosty reception in western capitals. Both the offer and reactions to it are part of a phase of manoeuvre for effect that precedes hard bargaining in disarmament negotiations. At least the new Soviet leader has said nothing to preclude the possibility of progress and his language is relatively restrained.

Its allies expect the United States to explore the ground that has been uncovered cautiously but positively. Nuclear arms control agreements leading to balanced and verifiable reductions would do much for world security. They would calm the dangerous clamour for one-sided disarmament; make less difficult control of the lateral spread of nuclear weapons; and help to revive détente between East and West. The word "détente" has become discredited in some western circles on account of its unequal observance in late years. But the state it signifies is a true object of policy, being of mutual benefit to both camps and apt for the avoidance of global war.

ALL OUR TOMORROWS

In the life of a daily newspaper there are no yesterdays. By the time a morning paper reaches its readers today is already yesterday; tomorrow has become today; yesterday is mere history. It is the inspiration of tomorrow which fires this great circadian effort.

People who work in the newspaper business tend to be romantic about newspapers, like people who work in circuses, because the conditions in which they work and the business environment in which they operate make no sense in logic. Something extra is required which only can be explained in a romantic setting.

Thus when a newspaper fails to come out, and there is no prospect of tomorrow to inspire a common effort, attention becomes too often concentrated on the romantics - on the journalists who pine, or the printers who wait, or the stillness of the press room where not even a sign let alone a kiss stirs the sleeping machinery to life. In fact it should be the reader, and only the reader, whose deprivation should cause concern. It is the reader who has been let down; yet it is the reader who alone has the power to prevent a recurrence of such treatment by purchasing another paper.

From our mail we know that our readers do not want to be burdened with the details of the old and disreputable "Spanish" practices which infect and cor-

rupt the newspaper business throughout Fleet Street. We set out to provide a regular service for our readers, and we have failed them. When the paper is not published that represents a collective failure by all those whose work should be involved in providing that service.

A newspaper is only as good as its last edition. The longer it goes without publishing, the more its character and reputation for service have to rely on an act of collective imagination by its staff, and loyal recollection by its readers. For most people, life without a newspaper would be like music without time - a blur of inchoate sounds, an endless and incomprehensible cacophony. It is newspapers which punctuate the march of time, synchronizing their narrative of events with commentary, analysis and entertainment. Newspapers comprehend the sound of history in the making, and give it meaning.

A newspaper which is not publishing however, and thus failing to fulfil its essential service is left only with the industrial nonsense. It is left without its readers, and without its advertisers. It is alone with its native anomalies and absurdities. Without the prospect of tomorrow, which is a kind of mantra which drives all Fleet Street to overlook and overcome its heritage, a newspaper has no life in it.

However it is a collective

failure when one newspaper does not appear, because all Fleet Street stands guilty of a readiness to find fault in others while cynically overlooking the rotten sub-structure on which it survives itself. The British press is only too ready fearlessly to expose bad management, bad unions, and bad industrial relations wherever they occur, except in its own backyard. The subtleties and cynicism which poison industrial relations in Fleet Street remain a close secret. That is a strange kind of conspiracy of silence to maintain when the newspaper houses themselves find any other kind of cooperation almost impossible to achieve.

Moreover it is a double standard which contains its own reckoning. For each time a newspaper falters, as *The Times* has faltered often enough in the last five years, one more member of the public will turn wearily to the wall - or more likely the television switch - and mutter: "A plague on all their houses." A free and varied press, such as Fleet Street aspires to be, deserves better. But it has to earn the public's continuing respect, not just to buy it. If that respect is lost for good, we are all lost - journalists, printers and readers alike. To be back in print is thus no cause here for exultation, but for sober reflection, and for a determination to see that we earn that respect anew.

Refuelling in flight

From Mr Tom Threlfall

Sir, The use by Mr Tam Dalyell in his article on December 11 of the phrase "tobogganing in the air" to describe a Victor tanker refuelling a Hercules in flight, leads an air of drama to the business which would have been absent had he used a less seasonally topical word, such as "descending".

Most aircraft have to descend as frequently as they climb, and the descent does not involve them in "some dreadful accident" unless they do it into other traffic or a hard-centred cloud. There is very little air traffic in the South Atlantic, and

nothing solid above sea level between Ascension and the Falklands, so there is no reason to suppose that a Victor-Hercules combination which descends whilst it refuels in that area is in any more danger than it is when flying straight and level.

As a former RAF Victor tanker captain I am aware that the word "tobogganing" is used when the aircraft being refuelled is using all its available power and needs some further assistance from gravity, but the word is then used as jargon to describe a "gentle and controlled descent, rather than emotively to add drama to a very straightforward process, as Mr Dalyell used it.

Like riding a bicycle, taking on fuel from another aircraft in flight is clearly impossible the first time one tries it, but practice makes perfect, and the RAF crews in the South Atlantic have had plenty of practice by now. They also have as strong a sense of self-preservation as the rest of us, and will avoid exposing themselves or their passengers to "hazardous circumstances".

Yours faithfully,
TOM THRELFALL,
Hallowford,
Winchester,
Hampshire.
December 13.

Just dealing in divorce law

From Mr C. B. Chandler

Sir, Debating the justice of our law on divorce in the manner that we have seen in recent times is to consider the problem from the wrong end. Before considering what we want from our divorce laws we need to decide what we make of the institution of marriage itself. Is it to be a lifelong union to be dissolved only in exceptional circumstances or is it to be a union to be dissolved more or less at the will of one or both of the parties?

The present law imposes potentially lifelong financial responsibilities and rights on marriage that continue even after its dissolution without any real consideration by the courts of the cause of the breakdown. At the same time the law permits people to remarry while being financially committed to one or more spouses and children by former marriages. I find this fundamentally inconsistent as the second marriage will usually prejudice the ability of the breadwinning partner to fulfil his or her legal responsibilities to the former spouse and children.

If society prefers the second of the two concepts of marriage I have mentioned it must accept that the responsibilities undertaken by the parties on marriage came to an end on divorce. Protecting children from the consequences of divorces will then be almost impossible and it is for that among many reasons that I prefer the first concept. It is the result of the debate on these two concepts which determines the justice of divorce, not the other way round.

Yours faithfully,
C. B. CHANDLER,
6-8 Western Road,
Romford,
Essex.
December 17.

Earthquake in Yemen

From the Ambassador of the Yemen Republic

Sir, The Yemeni community in the United Kingdom and I are deeply touched by your sympathetic coverage of the tragic earthquake which hit the Yemen on Monday, December 13.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to *The Times* and to all information media in the United Kingdom for their part in the coverage of the event. We will not forget the messages of sympathy from the people in the United Kingdom and also all charitable institutions who we know are doing their utmost to help.

The latest information received is that out of over 200 towns and villages in the Dhammar Province - the disaster area - 11 villages have been completely destroyed; these are Al-A'ali, Dhuran, Diw'at, Jabl-shaq, Al-Gadada, Ba'il, Da'awan, Chayman, Asayad, Haskat and al-Hajran. The number of dead and injured now stands at more than 5,000 and hundreds of thousands are homeless. The rescue operations are still being carried out.

I thank you again.
Yours sincerely,
AHMED DAIFELLAH ALAZEIB,
The Yemen Arab Republic
Embassy,
41 South Street, W1.
December 30.

Lowering the tone

From Mr John Boulton

Sir, Regarding the organist (letter, December 15) who comforts those in church by playing hymns in a lowered key, this humane and Christian measure works in other walks of musical life. In the difficult 1920s, like many others, I had to keep myself at college by such means as were to hand, in my case musical. As a pub pianist one had to be equally humane with ageing sopranos who, handing one a copy of say, "Annie Laurie" in C, would touch the piano and remark that "it sounds a bit high; would you please play in A flat, sorry." In this way one learnt also to succour tenors with such as "On with the Motley" and "La Donna è Mobile" in any key at all provided it was down.

And this does not only work one way. Having accepted the position of repititeur to a nearby amateur opera and agreed that the rehearsal piano was a good half-tone down it became necessary to rehearse all the numbers in *Lolita* transposed at the piano a half-tone up. Music has its martyrs, even at this humble level, and I suspect that your correspondent's church organist is in more numerous company than he knows.

I am, Sir, yours sincerely,
JOHN BOULTON,
181 Hillingdon Avenue,
Leamington Spa,
Warwickshire.
December 16.

The Hassan delegation

From the Saudi Arabian Assistant Deputy Minister of the Interior

Sir, The recent humiliation, of an Arab delegation coming to Britain to explain the Arab position regarding the Palestinian problem should not go unnoticed - or unpunished ("Britain tries to soothe the Arab anger over aborted visit", December 1).

A few facts should clarify to the British people why their Government was foolishly in humiliating the Arabs. First, the Britain of today is not the one of yesterday. In terms of political and military might it is no more than an appendage to the United States, so it should have accepted gracefully the Arab League's courtesy call, because Britain, in terms of influencing events in the area, is almost irrelevant.

Secondly, any British Government should be sensitive to the subject that the committee was hoping to discuss, namely Palestine.

Peace preservation and nuclear arms

From the Pro Vice-Chancellor of the University of Surrey

Sir, I find it difficult to hold a mere dictum as responsible for any wars, unlike Professor Rotblat (December 15). It would seem to me that the responsibility rests more often with aggressors. I would take issue with a number of other points which he makes in his letter.

Of course it is unprovable that the absence of war in Europe since 1945 has been due to nuclear deterrence. But it is equally impossible to prove the contrary, and facts, such as the close proximity of states with widely divergent ideologies and interests, the many points of specific contention - such as Berlin - and the high frequency of European war before 1945 make it a reasonable deduction that nuclear deterrence has played a major part in preserving the peace.

Professor Rotblat also suggests that cruise missiles will be difficult to verify. In fact they will be no more difficult to verify than the existing dual capable aircraft and artillery of both sides, or the highly mobile Soviet SS20s.

Professor Rotblat is perhaps too pessimistic in holding that prospects of reaching agreement in reducing nuclear arsenals are diminishing. Neither of the superpowers wants to bear the responsibility for bringing about a catastrophe of global proportions and it is at least somewhat encouraging that negotiations have at long last begun in Geneva. Both sides must be allowed to get on with their rhetoric, but we must all hope that they will get down seriously to the cogent business in hand before their positions become too entrenched.

Yours sincerely,
OTTO PICK,
University of Surrey,
Guildford,
Surrey.
December 21.

From the Moderator of The Free Church of Scotland

Sir, It is regrettable that in the present debate on defence and disarmament some of the protagonists on both sides of the argument concerning deterrence resort to irresponsible allegations about their opponents. So some unilateralists describe those who disagree with them as "warmongers", and some exponents of deterrence dismiss those who argue for another view as naive (one of the most overworked words in the vocabulary of politicians).

The middle paragraph of your leading article, "Rising damp" (December 18), is a good example of how not to conduct a fair and civilised discussion. You comdescendingly assert that "deterrence is an abstract theory which is difficult to grasp" requiring "mental discipline". There are many of us who regard the doctrine of deterrence as intellectually and morally dubious but have no difficulty at all in exercising the mental discipline

CAP surpluses

From Mr Brian Gardner

Sir, Lord Walston (December 6) misses the point. Although few would disagree with his assertion that the Community should not be pilloried for supporting its farmers, he omits to comment upon the level at which that support takes place. If price support were set at the production cost of the efficient farmer, instead of the current unnecessarily high level, surpluses would disappear along with the disappearance of the inefficient farmer.

Walston's solution, maintaining high internal prices through production quotas, merely increases the burden on the consumer. This sort of supply control would undoubtedly limit budgetary expenditure, but would not eliminate another major flaw in the common agricultural policy: the excessive burden it places upon the consumer. At present prices, the proportion of

Obtaining evidence

From Mr Graham Birch

Sir, Your correspondent Mr. Thorowgood (December 10) claims that policemen readily grant bail in exchange for a written confession. This claim really is a chestnut with whippersnappers.

An astute modern policeman eschews confessions. This is because he knows that a confession, no matter how freely given by a suspect, will be challenged by defence lawyers in the ritualistic *voir dire* held in the absence of the jury. He knows he will be accused of oppression and/or violation of the Judges' Rules in an attempt to get the trial judge to rule the confession inadmissible. He knows that if the judge admits it the same allegations of police miscon-

necessary to understand the arguments of those who preach this doctrine.

Your leader then suggests that many people are rejecting the rigour of mental discipline because "in schools, churches and universities they have been encouraged for so long to regard all forms of discipline as unwelcome". As a general statement that is undisciplined nonsense.

I will venture to speak for the churches. Within the churches worldwide the military doctrine of deterrence is increasingly called into question precisely because, as never before, it is being subjected to the most rigorous intellectual, moral and spiritual scrutiny. Call that rising damp, if you will; I call it dawning sanity.

Yours sincerely,
KENNETH G. GREET,
The Free Church of Scotland,
27 Tavistock Square, W.C1,
London.
December 20.

From Sir Philip Goodhart, MP for Bromley, Beckenham (Conservative)

Sir, In his plea for unilateral nuclear disarmament by this country, Professor Rotblat says (December 15): "It is becoming urgent to try a new approach".

Unilateral disarmament is not a new approach. After World War II this country unilaterally discarded chemical weapons. We got rid of our stocks of poison gas. We dismantled our factories for making chemical weapons. This lead was followed by the American Government. As this year's statement on the Defence Estimates reminds us, "no chemical agents have been produced, nor have any new munitions been filled, since 1969".

Paragraph 308 of the Defence Estimates tells us what the Soviet response has been. "We estimate that the Soviet Union has a stockpile in excess of 300,000 tonnes of chemical agent." We know that the number of Soviet chemical specialists on the Central Front in Europe now totals 70,000, and that Soviet forces regularly simulate the use of offensive chemical weapons in their exercises.

There is also, of course, some evidence that there have been field trials of Soviet chemical weapons in Kampuchea and Afghanistan.

If our unilateral disarmament in the chemical field has only encouraged the Soviet Union to increase their stocks of these dreadful weapons, I find it difficult to understand why the Soviet Union should behave differently when dealing with nuclear weapons. As you have argued in your admirable leading article, "No war, some peace" (December 11): "The overwhelming evidence in Europe suggests that a unilateral gesture of disarmament would not be followed by more security, but less".

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP GOODHART,
House of Commons.
December 17.

the cost of agricultural support borne by the consumer through higher than necessary prices - that is, than those necessary within a more national food and agriculture policy - is a much larger sum than the cost to the agricultural guarantee fund.

The Walston solution merely ensures an easy living for the large-scale East Anglian farmer and his Continental equivalent while doing nothing to solve the undoubted problem of inadequate incomes in the Community's important economically depressed rural areas. The CAP has signally failed to solve this problem, nor will it solve it until the two conflicting objectives of obtaining food supplies at reasonable prices and the maintenance of rural incomes are separated.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN GARDNER,
Agra Europe (London) Ltd.
216 rue Stevin,
Brussels,
Belgium.
December 7.

duct will be repeated to the jury. Most jury members are not aware of court room gamesmanship and many accept the allegations at face value and acquit rogues.

An astute policeman recognises that confessions can be used by defence lawyers to defeat justice. He does not therefore readily hand one to them. He knows that a little extra leg work to obtain strong real evidence and the testimony of civilian witnesses is far more effective in convicting guilty persons.

Yours faithfully,
G. BIRCH,
49 Trafford Road,
Trafford Heath,
Surrey.
December 12.

Princess on British television a few years ago, the Government of King Khalid sent the Ambassador of Great Britain scurrying home. A fat contract with Saudi Arabia was in the balance and cooler heads in Britain prevailed. One advantage of that is the British realization that the Saudis can be pushed around only so far.

Arabs today are at a loss to explain the blind, pigheaded and destructive support that the Zionists receive from the Europeans and Americans except on the basis of race prejudice. This support is undermining the vital interests of the West in the Arab world. If that is the case, then my advice to my fellow Arabs in our struggle against injustice is to emulate the Saudi way - namely, hit the Westerners where it hurts - in their pockets, for they have no hearts.

Yours, etc,
BANDAR BEN ABDULLAH,
Riyadh,
Saudi Arabia.
December 10.

Respecting old battlefields

From Dr J. R. Maddicott

Sir, Any visitor to the suburban park which is now the field of Bannockburn will know that the National Trust for Scotland and the *genius loci* do not always see eye to eye. There, the trust's combination of visual insensitivity with the vulgar commercialism of car parks and peepshows has all but destroyed the historical resonances of a famous landscape.

Your report of December 14 ("Culloden Moor to be restored") suggests that another site will soon be given the same treatment. Battlefields are melancholy places, able to move by the power of their imaginative associations, and needing "visitor centres" no more than moors need to be "restored". Their guardians should leave them that way.

Yours faithfully,
J. R. MADDICOTT,
Exeter College,
Oxford.
December 15.

Widow's mite

From Professor Jan van Loewen

Sir, Irving Wardle and the Theatre Writers' Union (feature, December 8) may be interested to know that there exists a valid precedent for the "Dead Writer Levy". The French Société des Auteurs et Compositeurs Dramatiques (SACD), which controls all dramatic and musical performances in France and francophone Belgium and Switzerland and to which all respective dramatists and composers have to belong, levies for the last 150 years a royalty of 6 per cent in Paris and 4 per cent elsewhere (i.e., one half of the statutory figures) from all productions of non-copyrighted material.

These moneys are credited to fictitious accounts such as "Madame Veuve Molière" or "Madame Veuve Berlioz" and find their way ultimately into the welfare and pension funds of the SACD. There exists, of course, also an account, "Madame Veuve Shakespeare".

Yours sincerely,
JAN VAN LOEWEN,
12 Eldon Road, W8.
December 10.

Animal honours

From Major J. L. R. Samson

Sir, Bobbie of the 66th Foot (letter, December 16) is not the only regimental dog to have received a campaign medal and also been wounded.

Jock, of The Black Watch, was present at the actions at El-Tah and Tamaal in 1884, being wounded at the former. He was also with the regiment during the Nile expedition in 1884 to 1885 and at the Battle of Kibekhan.

A photograph taken at Malta in 1886 shows on his collar an Egypt Medal with five clasps, together with a Khedive's Star, from which it would appear that Jock was in the ranks at Tel-el-Kebir in 1882 as well.

Unfortunately, he was killed in a road accident shortly afterwards.

Yours faithfully,
J. L. R. SAMSON,
Down House,
Salisbury,
Wiltshire.
December 17.

Legal redress

From Mr John Christopherson

Sir, The writer of your third leader today (December 16) has missed the point slightly. It is not only because she is a barrister that Miss Mallalieu is able to claim a dress allowance, it is also because she is self-employed and therefore assessed under Schedule D. Dare I detect a tiny note of envy in your writer who, as a starving employee, comes under Schedule E and so would also have to prove that his expenditure was necessarily incurred because of his employment, e.g. typewriters, quill pens, etc?

Anyway one expects a barrister to understand the law just as a rodder officer is expected to have an intimate knowledge of rats. Good luck to the fair Miss Mallalieu, who has proved herself to be as clever as she is beautiful.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN CHRISTOPHERSON,
21 Westgrove Lane,
Greenwich, SE10.
December 16.

From Mr Charles Fyffe

Sir, I read with amusement and amazement in *The Times* of Tuesday, December 14, that the Bar Council says a barrister must dress unobtrusively in court. In flowing black robes, a curly gray wig, stiff wing collar and two-tie starched white cravat?

Yours faithfully,
C. J. FYFFE,
52 Holmdale Road, NW6.
December 17.

Mark of disfavour

From Mr John Walker

Sir, The apostrophe may be dreaded or debated in some quarters, but in the Burgh of Bo'ness it is cherished. Any attempt to force us to revert to Borrowousness will be resisted strenuously.

My belief is that the Friends of the Bo'ness Apostrophe will stop at nothing if driven to desperation they may invite our local MP (Mr Tam Dalyell) to launch a campaign of parliamentary questions.

Responsibility for this will surely rest on those who have needlessly threatened an important part of Scotland's heritage.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WALKER,
Rosth House,
Grahamdyke Road,
Bo'ness,
West Lothian.
December 12.



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK
January 2. Divine service was held in Sandringham Church this morning. The Bishop of Norwich preached the sermon.

The Queen will hold investitures at Buckingham Palace on February 8 and 10. March 15, 17 and 23 and July 20 and 26. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will hold an investiture, on behalf of the Queen, on March 1 and the Prince of Wales on February 15 and 22.

The Queen will give a garden party at Buckingham Palace on June 29. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will give garden parties at Buckingham Palace on July 13, 19 and 27.

Princess Anne, Chancellor of London University, will attend a presentation ceremony at the Albert Hall on January 19 and later an ecumenical service in Westminster Abbey. In the evening, at Commandant in Chief, she will visit the Linguist Group, Women's Transport Service at the Duke of York's Headquarters.

Princess Anne will present the British Forces Broadcasting Service Award for 1982 to the winner of the award at the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers headquarters in the Tower of London on January 27.

The Prince of Wales, President of the Royal College of Music Centenary Appeal, accompanied by the Princess of Wales, will attend a gala at the Albert Hall on January 30.

There will be a service of thanksgiving for the life of Caryl Chessman at noon on Thursday, January 6, 1983 at St Paul's Church, Bedford Street, Covent Garden, W.C.2.

Birthdays today

Brigadier Sir John Anstey, 76; Mr David Atherton, 39; Mr John Bamford, 67; Mr Michael Barratt, 55; Mr Victor Bore, 74; 35; Sir Alastair Forbes, 75; Mr R. Hanbury-Tenison, 58; Sir Errington Keville, 82; Miss Anna Linden, 50; Mr R. R. Stockman, 54; Sir George Stead, 80; Mrs. Professor T. S. Willan, 73.

Christening

The infant son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Nares was christened George Gilbert on Tuesday, December 14, 1982, in The Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, by the Rev J. S. Westmuckett. The godparents are Lieutenant-Colonel Jeremy Smith, Mr Andrew Beeson, Mrs Graham Stearns and Miss Sophia Ryde.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include: Lord Bridges to be Ambassador to Italy in succession to Sir Ronald Arcurio, who will be retiring from the Diplomatic Service in February. Baroness Platt of Writtle to be chairman of the Equal Opportunities Commission for three years from May, in succession to Baroness Lockwood.

Sir Roy Strong to be a member of the Arts Council of Great Britain. Professor Sir Frederick Stewart, FRS, to be member of the British Museum (Natural History), in succession to Sir Arthur Drew.

Professor Sir David Phillips, FRS, to be chairman of the Advisory Board for the Research Councils. He will succeed Sir Alec Morrison on January 22.

Mr Roger Ellis, Master of Marlborough College, to be the 1985 chairman of the Headmasters' Conference in succession to Mr Warwick Ellis, High Master of St Paul's School, London.

Mother Honor Margaret has been re-installed as Mother General of the Community of St Mary the Virgin, Wantage.

Legal

Mr Oliver Bury Poplewell, QC, to be a High Court Judge in the place of Mr Justice Thompson, who has retired. Mr Poplewell will be assigned to the Queen's Bench Division.

Bond winners

Winning numbers in the weekly draw for Premium Bond prizes are £100,000: 1H2 282288 (Glasgow); £50,000: 5YK 321423 (E Sussex); £25,000: 15TS 976136 (Waltham Forest).

Latest wills

Lancaster, Mr Leslie, of Shotley Bridge, co Durham, £314,392. Marks, Mr Brian Lawrence, of Finchley, London, £297,848. Owen, Mrs Gladys Hannah, of Frenchay, Bristol, £51,749. Spradley, Mrs Gladys Muriel, of Abertillery, co Monmouth, £23,700. Start, Mr Napier Pittfield, of Washington, West Sussex, £228,138. Talbot, Mrs Elsie, of Hove, £221,261.



INCURABLE?—Yes.
The British Home & Hospital for Incurables specialises in looking after men and women suffering from progressive paralytic diseases. They need very special care and attention.
UNHAPPY?—No.
The BHHI receives no State aid. We must rely upon your generosity for a very worthy cause.
More than 60 hospital much more than at home.
BHHI
The British Home & Hospital for Incurables
Crown Lane, Streatham, London SW16 3RD
PATRON: HM QUEEN ELIZABETH, THE QUEEN MOTHER

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R. J. Newsome and Miss C. L. Bright
The engagement is announced between Richard James, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Paul Newsome, of Bourne, Lincolnshire, and Caroline Louise, second daughter of Mr and Mrs John Bright, of Corham, Wiltshire.

Mr J. E. Bellway and Miss N. E. Tawney
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs H. J. Bellway, of Warrenville, Illinois, United States, and Nicola, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. E. Tawney, of Hildenborough, Kent.

Mr N. C. Ansell and Miss M. J. Mansfield
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, youngest son of Mr and Mrs C. A. Ansell, of Start Farm, Start Point, Kingsbridge, Devon, and Mary-Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs A. L. Mansfield, of 118 Burt Hill, Lower Bourne, Farnham, Surrey.

Mr R. A. Higgins and Miss E. S. Lefroy
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Professor and Mrs P. J. Higgins, of Durham, and Elizabeth, only daughter of the Rev C. J. E. and Mrs Lefroy of Highbury.

Mr P. M. C. Rahl and Miss S. G. Kirkpatrick
The engagement is announced between Preston Martin Charles, only son of Mr and Mrs J. G. Rahl, of 102 Riverwood Court, London, SW6, and Sara Gillian, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs J. J. Kirkpatrick, of Fritham Lodge, Lyndhurst, Hampshire.

Mr R. de C. S. Montagu and Miss C. R. Stretell
The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Bryan and Elsie Montagu, and Claire, daughter of Ray and Barbara Stretell.

Mr M. Mahony and Miss R. B. E. Adams
The engagement is announced between Michael, eldest son of Mr and Mrs L. Mahony, of Paddington, London, W2, and Rosamund, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Adams, of Whitechurch, Hampshire.

Dr P. W. Lant and Dr A. M. G. James
The engagement is announced between Peter, youngest son of Mr and Mrs S. T. Lant, of Watney Garden City, Hertfordshire, and Allison, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs J. O. James, of Solihull, Warwickshire.

Mr J. R. Libby and Miss D. F. Gill
The engagement is announced between John, eldest son of Mr and Mrs E. Libby, of Gofford, Newcastle upon Tyne, and Daphne Frances, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. G. Gill, of South Croxson, Surrey.

Mr D. J. M. Richardson and Miss S. J. Fox
The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Mr and Mrs Clifford Richardson, of Streatham, and Sally, only daughter of Captain and Mrs Ian Fox, of Rosyth, Fife.

Mr C. R. de F. Stratton and Miss P. C. Grigson
The engagement is announced between Christopher, elder son of Mr and Mrs R. de F. Stratton, of Bramber, Steyning, Sussex, and Clare, second daughter of Mr and Mrs J. B. W. Grigson, of Cusley Wood, Wadhurst, Sussex.

Mr S. L. Rogers and Miss E. A. Ekman
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs Martin M. Rogers, of London, and Helen, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ralph R. M. Ekman, of London, and Greenwich, Connecticut.

Mr N. P. Hatley and Miss J. Wallstone
The engagement is announced between Nicholas Hutty, of Carbury, Goodwood, New South Wales, Australia, elder son of Mr and Mrs Peter Hatley, of Wintehall, Bransley, Guildford, Surrey, and Jane, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Wallstone, of Corfe Castle, Dorset.

Mr C. F. Myers and Miss M. J. Stacey
The engagement is announced between Rowland Frances, younger son of Dr Colin Myers, MBE, and the late Mrs Ellen Myers, of Hatch End, Middlesex, and Marina Jane, daughter of the late Mr David Stacey and Mrs Joyce Stacey, of Rottingdean, Sussex.

Mr J. Birkin and Miss E. Watson
The engagement is announced between John, only son of Sir Charles and Lady Birkin, of West Kelts, Salby, Isle of Man, and Emma, daughter of Mr and Mrs Morsay Watson, of Underwood House, Egham, East Sussex.

Mr D. Wood and Miss A. Jones
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs Leonard Wood, of Norwich, and Alice, daughter of Mrs Jones and the late Mr Hugh Jones, of Worthing, Sussex.

Mr W. N. Guppy and Miss S. Barnes
The engagement is announced between William Nicholas, eldest son of Mr and Mrs W. R. Guppy, of Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, and Suzanne, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs M. Reeves, of East Everleigh, Marlborough, Wiltshire.

The Hon Hugh O'Neill and Mrs S. M. T. Chittenden
The engagement is announced between Hugh, son of Lord Rathvane and the late Mrs Clara Sturges, and Sylvia, daughter of Mr and Mrs George Richard, of Provence, France.

Mr D. J. Hildesley and Miss E. D. Graham
The engagement is announced between David John, son of Mr and Mrs J. R. Hildesley, of Woking, Surrey, and Emily, daughter of Mr and Mrs C. Graham, of Canterbury, Kent.

Mr C. Dornall and Miss S. Hopkins
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of M. Xavier Dornall, of Golden Square, London W1, and Miss Jacqueline Dornall, of Place Bourg de Four, Geneva, and Sara, elder daughter of E. Fleuret-Collet, and Mrs Derek Hopkins, of Orchard House, East Farndon, Northamptonshire.

Mr A. C. Delso and Miss E. E. Ferguson
The engagement is announced between Adrian, son of Mr and Mrs Joquin Delso de Miguel, of Lower Parkstone, Dorset, and Emily, daughter of Mr and Mrs Alastair Ferguson, of Alvediston, Wiltshire.

Mr L. J. Carle and Miss R. J. Malinwaring-Burns
The engagement is announced between Lauren, son of M. and Mrs Robert Carle, of Paris, and Jill, daughter of Mr and Mrs A. W. Malinwaring-Burns, of Beaconsfield.

Lieut-Com M. French, RN and Miss N. J. McNaught
The engagement is announced between Matthew, son of Captain G. A. French, OBE RN, and Mrs French, of The Old Rectory, Stoke Abbott, Bournemouth, Dorset, and Nicola Mary, daughter of Mr and Mrs E. A. McNaught, of Manor Farm, Southwood, St Gilesbury, Somerset.

Mr C. P. Annandale and Miss J. H. Stephenson
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr and Mrs J. K. Annandale, of Lynton, Cheshire, and Julia, daughter of Mr and Mrs M. J. Stephenson, of South Ascot, Berkshire.

Lieut-Com J. P. C. Heal, R.M. and Miss S. C. Britton
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, eldest son of Dr and Mrs P. C. Heal, of Newton St Cyres, Devon, and Caroline, younger daughter of Commander and Mrs D. G. Britton, of Yelverton, Devon.

Mr E. J. Howell and Miss J. T. Sharp
The engagement is announced between Edward, son of the late Professor W. G. Howell and Mrs G. M. Howell, of Pen Diton Hall, Cambridge, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. R. Sharp and Mrs J. T. Sharp, of Heywood, Rosbarnhoe, Chichester, Sussex.

Capt S. Caraffi and Miss M. A. Pugh
The engagement is announced between Simon Caraffi, Royal Tank Regiment, second son of Mr and Mrs M. A. Caraffi, of Wimbeldon, SW19, and Michele Anne, only daughter of Squadron Leader R. M. Pugh, AFC, RAF (Retd), and Mrs Pugh, of Farnborough, Hampshire.

Mr R. J. Harris and Miss S. A. Walsley
The engagement is announced between Richard, youngest son of Mr R. J. Harris and the late Mrs M. C. Harris, of Wimbeldon, and Stephanie, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs F. Walsley, of Preston, Lancashire.

Mr M. J. Barnett and Miss E. J. Curtis
The engagement is announced between Michael, elder son of Mr and Mrs J. Barnett, of Durban, South Africa, and Erica, only daughter of Mr and Mrs E. J. Curtis, of Levenshoe Green, Hertfordshire.

Mr C. Gray and Miss J. Ewart
The engagement is announced between Christopher, twin son of Mr and Mrs H. A. Gray, of Calgary, Canada, and Jennifer, second daughter of Mr and Mrs J. B. Ewart, of Hamersmith, London.

Mr C. M. Jago and Miss F. E. Marsh
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs L. Jago, of Farnham, Surrey, and Fiona, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs R. Marsh, of Curridge, Hampshire.

Mr P. R. A. Gallon and Miss S. A. Perkins
The engagement is announced between Peter Robert, second son of Colonel (ret) and Mrs A. W. Gallon, of Charlton House, Dorset, and Anna Cornelia, youngest daughter of Dr and Mrs Richard Perkins, of Sutton Valence, Kent.

Mr M. Flanagan and Miss M. Fawcett
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr Graham and Mrs Peggie Flanagan, of Bramsham, Hampshire, and Monica, daughter of Mr and Mrs Elizabeth Fawcett, of Lymington, Hampshire.

Mr B. McManus and Miss E. C. Colston
The engagement is announced between Barrie, son of the late Mr A. McManus and Mrs McManus, of Colwyn Bay, Clwyd, and Elsie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Colston, of Boverton, Llanvillidr, South Glamorgan.

Mr M. A. J. Parker and Miss A. J. Shipman
The engagement is announced between Michael Alexander James, youngest son of the late Colonel D. G. Parker, OBE, and Mrs Parker, of Farnham, Surrey, and Amanda Jane, daughter of Mr Kenneth Shipman, of Marlborough, Wiltshire, and Mrs L. L. Shipman, of Hamstead, London.

Mr E. J. Bridge and Miss C. A. Gent
The engagement is announced between Keith Joseph, younger son of the late Mr W. H. Bridge, MC, of Rossall Junior School, and of Mrs M. Bridge, of Bury St Edmunds, and Caroline Ann, daughter of Mr and Mrs M. J. Gent, of London, SW7.

Mr W. J. R. Phillips and Miss L. A. Wilkins
The engagement is announced between William, eldest son of Mr and Mrs D. F. R. Phillips, of North Carle, Somerset, and Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs C. L. Wilkins, of Ber Combe, Somerset.

Lieut-Com R. J. Walshy, RN and Miss C. P. Lloyd
The engagement is announced between Navy, son of Mrs D. Painter and Stephen M. D. Painter, of Mellor, Lancashire, and Camille, younger daughter of His Honour Judge Denis Lloyd, and the late Mrs Margaret Lloyd, of Brough, Derbyshire.

Mr A. Morris-Hooper and Miss C. Colquhoun
The engagement is announced between Anthony, son of Mr and Mrs John Morris-Hooper, of Severn, and Caroline, daughter of Wing Commander and Mrs Colin Colquhoun, of Wells, Somerset.

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OBITUARY

CANON JOHN COLLINS Energetic champion of liberal causes



Canon John Collins, who died on December 30 at the age of 77 will be associated in the minds of many with the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament of which he was chairman from 1958 to 1964. But on any count, he stands out among the non-conforming clergy of the twentieth century.

His career began comfortably within the established ranks but there were qualities within him that made him highly critical of established attitudes and the lifelong competition in his own being of these two sides of himself produced a largely superficial toughness which was apt to mislead. He had the gift of courage and would not be swayed from his purpose but always behind the prophet was the kindly helpful man known to his friends.

His critics felt that his undoubted gifts as speaker and organizer might have more often been devoted to strengthening religion and the Church and less often harnessed to fashionable causes. He was a residential Canon of St Paul's Cathedral from 1948 until October, 1981, a regular and often controversial preacher on current events. He had also been Treasurer, Chancellor and President, where they were and the whole Station soon knew that this was the germ of Christian Action.

It was a restless man who went back to Oriel in 1945. Soon what had happened at Yatebury was happening at Oxford and after a period the result was a public meeting in the Town Hall on December 3, 1946, which was "A call to Christian Action in Public Affairs." The chairman was the Bishop of Chichester, Dr Bell and the speakers were Sir Richard Acland, Roger Wilson, Barbara Ward and Victor Gollancz. The meeting was an overwhelming success and over-flowing meetings were necessary.

The "Call to Christian Action" issued from this meeting, rested upon a firm theological foundation. "We boldly reaffirm," it said, "our faith in the reality of God's providence in human history. We believe that the Cross of Christ and His Resurrection gave us the assurance that history has sense and direction, and that God's justice and His Love surely operate in the world. In all national and international affairs the rule of God's Law, and not the self-interest of the stronger is the ultimate determinant." Out of this meeting and this assumption, Christian Action was formed.

The first great concern chosen was "United Europe" with all its appeal to the conservatively minded and "A Call to Action by Christians in the present crisis," issued from the Albert Hall on April 25, 1948. The meeting had the support of both Attlee and Churchill, with Lord Halifax in the chair and Stafford Cripps speaking. After this the success of Christian Action was assured. In 1948, Collins was made a Residential Canon of St Paul's. He was the Chancellor until 1954 and thereafter the Precursor until 1970. It was always an open secret that there were those of his colleagues who viewed his activities with suspicion and disfavour and that this had a considerable effect upon his work within the Cathedral with the inevitable result that he came to concentrate more and more upon his outside activities.

Christian Action became Collins's life work and it became synonymous all over the world for large numbers of people for a dynamic Christianity concerned with love of neighbour. Christian Action addressed itself to many subjects of which road safety was one, but more and more it tended to concentrate on the question of South Africa. In 1953 it had raised a fund for the support of passive resistance in South Africa; a more important fund followed when at the end of 1956, 156 opponents of apartheid were arrested on charges of treason. Collins called the Bishop of Johannesburg offering all the assistance which Christian Action could give to the accused and their families. So began the Defence and Aid Fund.

Christian Action had also much to do with peace and one of the highlights of its work was the Albert Hall meeting of 1959 which it organized jointly with the Friends' Peace Committee. One of Collins's major disappointments was that he did not secure the official support of Christian Action for his work in the field of nuclear disarmament. It was his particular genius that he was often able to sense the right moment to move. There were both local and national societies before he called together a group of people who addressed a major gathering in the Central Hall, Westminster, in February, 1958, and inaugurated the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, but it was the result of this initiative that this country saw the biggest mass movement in the political field in this century.

Even so the first Aldermaston March was a rank and file affair at first, disowned by the executive committee, and Collins himself only addressed a meeting in Reading and marched a short way. It was because the march became such a success that the next year the members of the executive committee had to march and "Aldermaston" become official.

When the committee of 100 began its activities in 1960 disagreements multiplied between Collins and Russell and more and more anarchists groups within the movement weakened its cohesion and one by one the original Central Hall speakers resigned from the executive committee and in 1964 Collins himself abandoned the chairmanship.

Collins was not a prolific writer and his principal writings were the article on *Loisy* in the *Encyclopedia Britannica*; a *Hibbert Journal* article on "The Cross"; *The New Testament Problem* (1937); *The Theology of Christian Action* (1948); an I.C.F. Pamphlet on *The Resurrection*; an essay in *This War and Christian Ethics* (1940); an essay in *The Priest as Student* (1949); a pamphlet *Christianity and the War Crisis* (1951) (jointly with Victor Gollancz); an essay on "Christianity as Social and Political Action" in *Three Views of Christianity* (1962); and the autobiographical *Faith under Fire* (1966).



1940 he volunteered and became a chaplain to the RAF Volunteer Reserve and spent the war first at Cardington then at Yatebury and finally at Bicester Command Headquarters near High Wycombe. There is no question but that some of his most important work was done at Yatebury where he made an impact which it is given to few service chaplains to make. He brought together there a small group of Christian Servicemen and women who set out to make "Christianity incarnate" where they were and the whole Station soon knew that this was the germ of Christian Action.

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THE ARTS

Television
History as farce

Henry the Sixth, Part One (BBC2) is not the easiest play to present on television. Since the small screen is best with intimate drama, it is difficult to know what to do with all those soldiers shouting absurd things in rhyming couplets. And what about Joan of Arc? Do you play her as Margaret Thatcher, or as principal boy (assuming that there is a difference)?

And so the producer of last night's version, Jonathan Miller, laboured under a disadvantage. Since he successfully parodied Shakespearean rhetoric in *Shakespeare in the Flesh*, many years ago, it must have been doubly difficult to play it straight. Wisely he, and the director Jane Howell, decided not to do so. As soon as the characters began speaking the verse as if they were on a sea-saw - murmured, contorted and ransomed, all rhyming with Beachy Head - it became clear that this was going to be a deliberately artificial production.

Loud shouts of "Hoorah!" as the Dauphin rushes on stage and then rushes off again. Enter the Duke of Gloucester, dressed in a bedspread and riding a pantomime horse. Lots of peasants whacking each other with small swords, or clucking tomato ketchup to their faces. Where are the messengers? Here they are, rattling off names in a quite incomprehensible manner.

The paradox was that of television accommodating a self-consciously staged production, rougher and more pantomimic than anything to be found in the theatre itself. This was history as farce, a combination of Alexander Dumas and Lewis Carroll. And yet it worked: it extracted enjoyment from a play which would otherwise be sheer torture to watch. And there are nine hours to come: we might have another *Dallas* in the making, with the added advantage of a script.

Waiker's World Abroad the Orient Express (Yorkshire) had all the marks of a "disaster film": bad acting, banal lines and terrible costumes. The first sight of Liza Minnelli, no doubt as a paying passenger, only confirmed one's worst fears: every time the train left a tunnel, I was sure that someone would have put a knife in her back. But she was not by means the worst: it must have been difficult to fit so many boorish people within so confined a space. The director must have run out of inspiration, also, since half the film consisted of exterior shots of the train. The secret is, never to look back: it was not so much glamorous as vulgar. God forbid that an American businessman should revive the Concorde.

Peter Ackroyd

Theatre

Nightingale

Lyric, Hammersmith

The name of Hans Andersen is not listed in the credits for Charles Strouse's musical in which the composer of *Annie* makes his shaky bow as a storyteller.

Mr Strouse has noticed certain parallels between the fable of the Chinese songbird and the plight of the modern American entertainer. Thus when the nightingale passes its imperial audition it is promptly elected Bird of the Year and the court, led by two hostesses in blue-rimmed peacock feathers, break into delighted yelps of "We like you, you're famous". Fickle as ever, they soon switch their favours to the mechanical bird ("this triumph of modern technology") and the ragtrade drops its line in Nightingale: T-shirts.

It is a witty idea which could have been developed into a satire of real cutting power. Mr Strouse, however, wishes to preserve the romance as well, with the result that neither Chinese nor American comes properly into focus and the main effect is to bungle the original story.

The Emperor's final meeting

Annie

Adelphi

Unlike *Peter Pan*, *Toad of Toad Hall* or *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Annie* is too expensive and too difficult to cast ever to become the annual Christmas event which would otherwise be its natural destiny. Its brief return to London in the midst of a national tour following three and a half years at the Victoria Palace (not to mention the film version) is therefore to be welcomed, no matter how lumpy the palms of the promoters.

You may recall from the programme credits for an "entire production directed by Martin Charnin", but it is certainly under somebody's entire control. Every bit of floor swabbing business in the orphanage, every curtsy in the Warbucks mansion, every Times Square vignette and every detail of White House drill down to the marine who delivers telegrams at attention so as to miss the recipient's hand, is punched home with confident precision. The mechanics of the show are in excellent nick, and it is a pleasure to see David Mitchell's montage sets of the Depression reappearing with all their long-range glamour and close-up squalor fully intact.

Annie is played by Amanda Louise Woodford, who begins as a box-shaped waif, with an

unsmiling face framed in lank brown hair, and blossoms into a chestnut-curlled charmer in a sailor suit. The point about Annie is that she never gets above herself no matter what her change of fortunes; and Miss Woodford gets this across not only with indolent displays of good manners but in her power to radiate discontent without saying a word. She makes a deft dance partner with her billions and every word comes ringing through in "Maybe" and "I Think I'm Gonna Like It Here". Perhaps other child performers could do the same; but it takes something special to make a "Hello Dolly" descent down a marble staircase without the least trace of brattiness; and she pulls this off, too.

A good Annie is bound to upstage the adult company, but this is a good deal more evident now than it was with the Victoria Palace team. Charles West has the voice for Warbucks and is thrown deliciously off balance in the radio studio, floundering through his script before grinding out the compulsory commercial through clenched teeth. But he succumbs too easily to Annie before establishing his authority as a granite-hearted tycoon. Ursula Smith's Miss Hannigan and her two co-plotters spend too much energy on the comedy. They are not particularly funny, and meanwhile the sense of villainy evaporates.

Irving Wardle

Mother Goose

Wimbledon

Honor Blackman is evil. Garbed in black and silver and glittering in jet, with a hiss and a touch of an accent to her voice, she is the incarnation of Demon Vanity, even if she has killed James Bond. Paul Elliott would not miss a chance to mention that phase of her career and he is not about to let Larry Grayson into his Wimbledon Theatre pantomime without encouraging him, as Larry Goose, to hold an onstage *Generation Game*. Similarly, he manages a commercial for British Caledonian during the balloon flight out of Goodland.

But, having just seen another Paul Elliott pantomime where he dispensed with author's royalties by dispensing with authors, it has to be said that his closer involvement with *Mother Goose*, where he directs as well as "devises", makes a world of difference. He harnesses the talents of his diverse performers and tailors them to the service of pantomime. Mr Grayson is a games master translated to Goodland. The glamour of Miss Blackman is radiated through the witty one-upmanship of Demon Vanity. Dilys Watling as the principal boy is well matched to Cheryl Taylor's Mary Mary who repeats everything.

There is still too much indulgence in the sort of thing Mr Grayson is known to do on television when even the little is more than enough in pantomime. Miss Blackman is better off with the welcome security of written comic speeches as a nice balance to the strained rhymes of Fairy Modesty's speeches. It tends to be Mr Grayson's talk show too often, but there is at least a sturdy and masculine Mother Goose from David Morton to keep the story rolling.

Ned Chaillet

Irving Wardle reviews the profits and losses of the old theatrical year

The adventure playgrounds closing down



A new play worthy of rare respect: Roger Rees and Polly James in Tom Stoppard's "The Real Thing"

For an infringement of the Trades Descriptions Act it could be hard to beat the London Transport poster showing a tube train pulling up alongside a glittering theatre street and disgorging a horde of eager passengers into a smush hit of their choice. The West End never did bear much resemblance to that Las Vegas nightmare, but in 1982 - with disruptions of public transport, worse parking than ever before, folding shows and dark theatres - its despoils took on the likeness of funerary urns.

Doubly crippled by VAT and subsidized competition, the West End ought by now to be claiming sympathy as an underdog. It is only too easy to see why commercial managers have changed from independent entrepreneurs into booking agents for already successful transfers. But the small residue of commercially originated work that struggled through leaves you feeling relieved that Shaftesbury Avenue is largely controlled from Hammersmith and Greenwich. All there was to show at the end of the year were two well-earned musical successes - *Windy City* and *Song and Dance* - one respect-worthy new play, Tom Stoppard's *The Real Thing*, and Antony Quayle's popular classical regime at the Haymarket, which must count as the closest approximation to repertory yet achieved in the commercial sector. Otherwise the record consists of dud novelties, some so obviously disaster-prone as to defy rational explanation.

Perhaps Angela Huth's *The Understanding* looked attractive as a vehicle for Ralph Richardson and the late Celia Johnson; perhaps Eric Idle's *Pass the Butter* looked like a theatrical son of Monty Python. But what of such stardom and already forgotten aberrations as *Murder in Mind*, *The Housekeeper and a Coat of Varnish*? Whatever the evolutionary impact of the recession, it is not promoting the survival of the fittest.

It gives me no satisfaction to rake over these whitened bones, and I do so only because the West End remains the one department of the theatre (apart from a couple of promising new regional circuits) where the English playwright can make a living. In the theatre, for instance, must be doing quite nicely from the run of *Another Country* at the Queen's; but, as he pointed out to his hosts at the SWET awards dinner, this is entirely thanks to the Greenwich Theatre which took on the play after Shaftesbury Avenue had turned it down. What response, I wonder, would Michael Frayn have had from the Savoy management if he had simply submitted the text of *Noises Off* and left them to

make sense of the blueprint-like stage directions, instead of offering them Michael Blake-more's beautiful working model, by courtesy of the Lyric, Hammersmith?

Those who foresee a general landslide into museum theatre will find plenty of evidence from the record of the past 12 months. The supposed alliance between the West End and the fringe has come to nothing; more and more theatres have been changing into receiving houses; and previous sources of original product have been running dry.

The Mermaid made a gallant comeback in February with Christopher Hampton's *The Portage*, but the production expired at the end of its run, together with the hopes of launching the theatre under John Dexter. Since then the Mermaid has been keeping

material along with other sacrifices in exchange of tenure of a living theatre for incarceration in a heavily policed bank vault.

When the Barbican opened in June, I expressed the opinion that we would get used to it in time. I was wrong. The one thing its regular users have to thank the Barbican for is that it has given them a personal insight into the psychology of vandalism. Otherwise the only appropriate future I could envisage for it would be as a secure dump for nuclear waste.

The year 1982 can be summed up as the time in which we gained the Barbican and lost the Round House and Riverside Studios. As there is still the chance of a last-minute reprieve for both, I have some hope of eating my words. But even so, and even with the

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Israel celebrates Huberman's centenary

Tradition grown up out of tribulation



Isaac Stern: "The search for beauty must go on... it's the only way"

Hotel and built with money from the Rothschild Foundation. The position of the young Israeli violinist, in particular, is one of great privilege, in regular contact with musicians of the calibre of Stern, whose brainchild the Jerusalem Music Center was. With so much being provided the results ought to be exceptional, and they are. One of the high spots of the Huberman Week was a strong, sure performance of the Mendelssohn concerto by Mitz, alumnus of the Jerusalem Music Center, who has transformed himself from a sweet, romantic sensitive plant into a musician of unarguable purpose. Here it was impossible to imagine any phrase being done differently, or sounding better than it did, with Mitz's powerful bowing. His intense, bodily present purity of tone and his aptly versatile vibrato.

Meanwhile the torch of Jascha Heifetz is being handed on to a new generation. Stern, very much the paterfamilias of the occasion, played a Vivaldi triple concerto with two young aspirants, of whom the 12-year-old Roy Shiloah showed complete confidence and a well-defined musicality that could conceivably carry him on to the international stage within the next decade or so.

And this is rather odd. The young Shiloah is a "sabra", a member of the growing proportion of the population born in Israel, having Hebrew as their first language and cutting loose from their European ties. On the streets the old men in berets and the old women, heavily powdered and thickly furred, are giving place to a new generation of tan Levantine complexion. To the ignorant eye, young Israelis, the grandchildren of immigrants, would seem to have much more in common with their coevals in Cairo or Damascus than with their cousins in London or Warsaw.

History, however, is as powerful an agent of demarcation as religion, and with the effort being put into the furthering of western music in Israel, there can be little doubt that Vivaldi concertos will continue to sound there, just as strudels and blintzes will continue to be eaten. The pity is that

more stimulus is not going into composition, into the creation of an indigenous Israeli music that might unite the various cultures, even the various Jewish cultures swarming within this tiny state.

President Navon, speaking at the final gala concert of the Huberman Week, cheerfully expressed the wish that the harmony we were hearing within the Fredric R. Mann Auditorium (another American gift) might be repeated within the political and economic life of the country, and it is possible that a new Israeli music might have some small part in giving the country an identity and confidence it has lost.

According to Noam Sheriff, one of the leading Israeli composers of the moment, such a thing is possible, since the particular and very distinctive intonations of the Hebrew language already give a family physiognomy to the musical cultures of all Jewish peoples, whether Ashkenazy or Sephardic, Russian or Moroccan. By contrast, the music of Bach, Beethoven and Brahms, to judge from the capacity audiences at this festival, appeals only to the minority, albeit the large, appreciative and moneyed minority, of Israelis of European descent and connections.

What they heard in these six concerts was inevitably of unequal standard. Overlaid by so much accompanying, the Israel Philharmonic under Zubin Mehta were more often a striving crowd than a blended orchestra in an encore of the first movement from Vivaldi's "Winter". Concerto, with Perlman, they did better without their conductor than they had done under the pressure of his driving beat.

Among the soloists, Stern was not on good form, perhaps worried by the political situation in a country he loves. During a short speech at Tel Aviv University, where he was given an honorary doctorate, he allowed himself to comment: "The search for beauty must go on, the attitudes of street politics should be overcome - it's the only way for this country."

But the damaged and mishapen specimens in this neckless of violin concertos were balanced by many pearls: Mitz in the Mendelssohn, as I have mentioned, Perlman in a masterful performance of the Beethoven, drawing phrases out of silence and allowing them to subside again into perfect quietness, Zukerman riding unruffled over the ignorance of the orchestra in the Elgar concerto and contributing a firm, responsive viola to Perlman's violin in the Mozart Sinfonia Concertante. Ida Haendel finding a whole sentence of passionate meaning in every note of the Sibelius concerto.

Obviously a week of concerts could not be expected to provide a consistently sufficient tribute to a great violinist. But Israel has well and amply repaid its debt to Huberman: the greater difficulties it faces are those of the future.

Paul Griffiths

Opera

Otello
Coliseum

Treasury's December concessions to the Arts Council, there is no doubt of the direction in which things are moving. The padlocks are going on. The adventure playgrounds are closing down. Culture is being barricaded inside official fortresses housing nothing less than classics of impregnable repute and proven drawing power. Free spaces for visiting foreign troupes, experimental events and what one can only call artistic hospitality are on the way out; together with the exhilaration and flashes of insight that only thrive in open conditions.

Looking for the positive achievements of the year, you find that 1982 also marked the strengthening of another prevailing trend: the power of the director, which applies no less to the premieres of Pinter, Peter Nichols, Stoppard and Frayn than to the sell-out revivals of *Guns and Dolls* and *A Doll's House*. In times of trouble, it is up to the director to keep things ticking over, as Richard Eyre, Adrian Noble, Peter Wood and their colleagues have vigorously demonstrated. The injustice in this arrangement is that it takes no account of those good new writers who do emerge.

From the production of Catherine Hayes's *Scrimishes* in January several arresting talents have appeared, including Sue Townsend, Carol Williams and Stephen Fagan (author of *The Hard Shoulder*, which gets my vote as the best "how we live now" play of the year); not to mention the continuing growth of such relative newcomers as Kureishi and Tony Marchant. But their plays flare up and expire as short-lived studio events, vanishing long before they have reached their potential audience. It is directors, not writers, who enjoy the conditions of artistic continuity; particularly those who build up their own teams.

The healthiest sights on the London scene have been those of Richard Eyre following up *Guns and Dolls* with *Schweik in the Second World War*; Michael Bogdanov moving on from Spanish revenge drama to its Elizabethan counterpart; Bill Bryden reassembling his Cortes team for a communal *Midwinter Night's Dream*; Christopher Fretwell and Robert Walker continuing their studio revivals of supposedly defunct French classics and Broadway musicals; and John Caird and Trevor Nunn regrouping their *Nicholas Nickleby* forces for the recreation of *Peter Pan*. It goes against the grain to say so, but my choice for one new play as the sacrifice of all the rest would be Philip Young's study of blindness, *Crystal Clear*, a group work devised by a director.

A final feeling of lack of contact with Verdi's score comes from the pit, where Mark Elder conducts a serenely confident, well-paced but strangely lightweight account of what is, after all, extremely tense and concentrated music. Many wonderful points are missed: there was one interrupted cadence which Elder sailed through and Craig landed on a few moments later, flat, which typified a certain lack of responsiveness.

Nicholas Kenyon

Dance

Royal Ballet

Covent Garden/
Sadler's Wells

There were nothing like so many laughs as there should have been at the ballets I saw last week. The stepsisters in *Cinderella* at Covent Garden are played nowadays by two casts of men who go conscientiously through all the right motions, but without any trace of the geniality or acuteness of days gone by. The results are not very funny, even Michael Coleman's one bit of original business, tripping as he enters the ballroom and rolling downstairs.

Until it finds another pair of inspired cloths, the Royal Ballet might do better to get away from pantomime tradition and give the roles to women (as has been done before now). Heaven knows they have enough senior women who are unsuited to classical roles and might make a go of comedy.

Antoinette Sibley, who has not danced *Cinderella* for ten years, made a return to the role on Saturday. She still looks lovely in it as long as one avoids noticing her feet too much. Wendy Ellis's exaggerated playing of the role is more acceptable if one looks only at her feet. Lesley Collier lacks Sibley's radiance but dances with spirit, feeling and style.

A brave but insecure first attempt at the anonymous prince by Stephen Beagley drew attention, by contrast, to Anthony Dowell's success in giving some personality to this featureless hero. Ashton's choreography gives more interest to his side-kick, the jester, but that part needs to be danced with more bravado and sensibility than it is getting.

The most consistently good dancing has come from the ensemble of young women in the midnight waltz. Deirdre Eyden is a splendid fairy godmother and even makes something of the solo which has usually looked dull. There was spirited dancing, too, from Karen Paisley, Ravenna Tucker

and Wendy Ellis among the fairies of the seasons at various performances.

Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet, at its home theatre, showed young dancers in leading roles. Sandra Madgwick, who first danced La Fille mal gardée for her graduation performance only 18 months ago, has developed fast in her short time with the company and now makes like more charming and funny. Carl Myers matches her in those qualities as Colas, but his dancing would not suffer from a little more punch. Grahame Lustig, new as Alain, concentrates on the sad side of the character; for best effect, he needs to bring out equally the innocent exuberance. With David Morse a somewhat stolid Widow Simone, *Fille* was not quite as sparkling as Madgwick and the lively supporting ensemble deserved.

In Coppelia, earlier in the week, Michael O'Hare played Franz a little too regisarily, but his humour is natural and his solos have spirit. Definitely a young man to watch, I thought Denis Bonner sensible to play up Dr Coppelius's witfulness, and Susan Lucas (another dancer returning as a professional to her graduation role) made a pretty Swanilda, but they need a sharper focus to the poetry and humour of their scenes together.

John Percival

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1980	12.0	12.0
1990	-	14.0
2000	-	16.0
2010	-	17.5
2020	-	18.5
2030	-	19.0
2040	-	18.5
2050	-	18.0

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the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are illiterate has increased from 1.2 billion to 1.5 billion. The number of illiterate people in the world is projected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2015. The number of illiterate people in the world is projected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2015.

THE TIMES

Review of the year 1982

Harvests to remember, not all with pleasure

Apples, maize, cauliflowers, potatoes, peaches, cherries, even champagne grapes: 1982 was a peerless harvest year. In almost all departments, though it will not be remembered for that, Prize pumpkins outswelled all records, and the glut of roses was almost monstrous. There has never been such a grain crop in Western Europe or North America. Britain became a net grain exporter, or near it, for the first time since the passing of the Corn Laws. All this of course was the cause of much dismay and lamentation among farmers, not the least in the hungrier nations, where dumped produce undercut hopes of eventual agricultural self-sufficiency.

Corn and butter mountains rose, wine lakes overflowed, and subsidized massacres of tomatoes and grapes occurred on unprecedented scales. The usual concurrent famines can be taken for granted, of course, and it was wholly in character with man's general management of his planet's resources that certain large tracts of marginal sub-Antarctic grazing land were systematically sown from the air with thousands of plastic mines, thereby making the minimum size needed to blow the foot off a man or a sheep.

That particular harvest will take some time yet to reap. The cost of the Falklands war to Britain already exceeds £1m for each island, or the equivalent of two years' subsidy to British Rail, as well as one dead man for every eight islanders. There is no calculus for assessing the cost-effectiveness of this policy, which would mean putting prices on life and freedom, as well as on the later consequences of letting friends down and allowing unprovoked aggression to succeed when one can prevent it. Four fifths of the cost in blood fell on young Argentines, conscripts of a dictatorship, who never had much chance of forming or effectively expressing a view on such issues.

At the bar of British public opinion, the rape of the Falklands was judged without apparent recourse to the doctrine of contributory negligence. The nation was exhilarated — though perhaps less than most others would have been in the same position. The character of the hardware, the remoteness of the area and the diplomatic background allowed war to seem an affair far more of gallantry and far less of butchery than it can normally

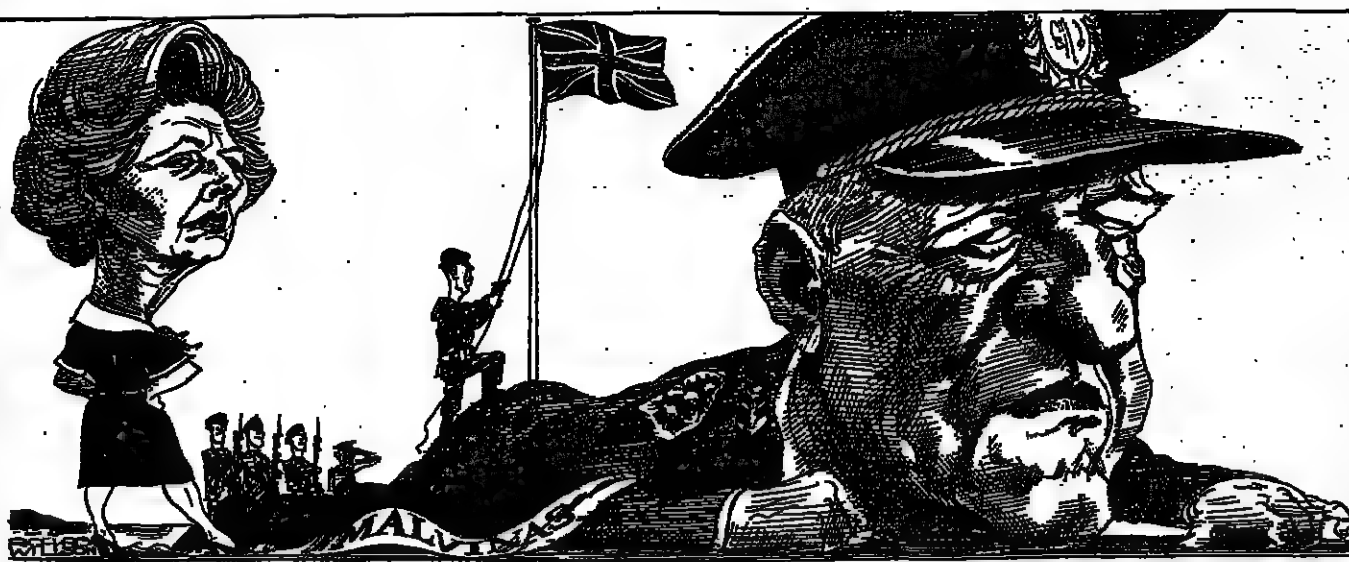
be. We recognized the liberated farmsteads as profoundly unfamiliar. The fears which the ships left behind as they sailed were released in joy when they came back: those that did come back.

If we were tempted to forget what war really was, we were soon reminded. Some allege that Israel's decision to invade the Lebanon was made easier by the Falklands example. This would be another factor to put into the moral balance-sheet, but the chances are that Israel would have gone ahead anyway. Acting ostensibly in reprisal for the shooting of her London ambassador (or in reprisal for the reprisals) Israel thrust north in an advance codenamed Operation Peace. By the time-honoured custom, the Palestinians fought from housing estates, so that their antagonists could be accused of disregard for innocent life in pursuing them, and the Israelis denounced this technique while energetically pressing the attack.

Even Israeli sources concede that at least 12,000 people died in the war, most of them non-combatants. Other estimates put the figure two or three times higher, at 14,000 or 15,000. Whatever the world might think, most Israelis seemed to share the view of Mr Begin and Mr Sharon that this was an acceptable price to exact for security.

But Israel itself was deeply shaken by a relatively small release of blood after the PLO had sailed away. By foolish or malign oversight, the Lebanese with most cause to hate the Palestinians were given the run of their refugee camps for many hours, and slaughtered hundreds of young and old alike. This atrocity, committed under the aegis of an army in occupation of the cities of a conquered neighbour, was a profound blow to Israel's cause in the world. Yet again it was shown how power tends to corrupt; it was felt everywhere that few of all people should have known better than to let Christians get at their enemies.

The fugitive Mr Yasser Arafat was received in audience by the Pope. One effect of the Lebanon war was to convince the world that the Palestinian problem was a danger to peace that needed to be solved, not merely beaten on the head at intervals of a decade or so. The Pope himself at this time often resembled a stormy petrel in the thick of the world's conflicts.



Denied invitations to Lebanon and his own troubled Poland, he rejected the strong arguments of diplomatic caution for cancelling his visit to Britain while she was actually at war with a major Catholic country: instead, he visited both combatants.

He introduced himself wittily as the Bishop of Rome, that individual who proverbially has no jurisdiction in this realm. The hands of the dying were clasped, consecrated waters were distributed 100,000 at a time, and nuns immersed for 20 years emerged into the wicked world to cheer the passing Pope-mobile and whisk cameras from their draperies to catch his image. The patch of tarmac that he kept to kiss on landing at Gatwick was dug up and framed for display as a relic.

There never was so strange a time, with a Pope in Toxteth and our frigates dodging Exocets in the South Atlantic. In the midst of the excitement a new second heir to the throne was born. In a graceful gesture of conciliation, the child was named after Mr William Hamilton, MP.

It is not easy to cast the imagination back to the political scene before those days. When the scrap metal dealers ran up their flag on South Georgia, conventional wisdom was as certain that the Tories could not win the next election as it is certain now that they cannot lose. They were running third to Alliance and Labour in the polls.

By July the Tories were 20 points ahead of the field. Politicians' reputations stood or fell according to whether they had had a "good war". Michael Foot and his factional followers were torn between disgust at colonial adventures and abhorrence of military dictatorships, and danced ineffectually on the sidelines. But it was the Alliance which suffered most, as the sound of gunfire sent voters back to the old politics.

As for the Prime Minister, her exaltation knew no bounds. She did not quite say that she had the body of a weak and feeble woman but the heart and

stomach of a prince, but she did assert royally that we were not interested in the possibility of defeat. Yet the most enduring problems that faced her administration could not be solved by the dispatch of a task force. More vulnerable than any other industrial nation to the rigours of the worst world recession in 50 years, Britain found itself in a plight such as to cause all talk of upturns and light at the end of tunnels to falter and die away. Unemployment rose from three million to three and a quarter. The Government moved vigorously to eliminate this trend by redefining the statistics. In international conference, the developed nations met to pray to be delivered from protection, but not yet.

The impression left by domestic politics, however, was not of defeat, but of a year of victories. Aslef went down, the NUR went down, the health service workers went down, the miners thought of picking a fight, and thought better of it. The TUC did not know which way to turn. The old dragon of inflation was humbled, and the real disposable income of most households actually rose slightly. Those of the poor did not, but the poor are only a minority, and on the evidence a resigned one.

For the rest of us, this was the year when everyone began to skim the streets on roller skates, wearing earphones to enjoy their own private music sessions. One household in ten had a video recorder, twice as many as a year ago, and more than in any other country. We were harassed by dilemmas over what to watch, now that the fourth TV channel had widened the choice. No wonder such a plugged-in nation was too engrossed to take up last year's insurrectionary hints from Brixton and Liverpool.

Who could find time to bear a grudge with ET, to sigh over, and *Chariots of Fire* restoring Britain's pride with its haul of Oscars? London treated itself to a slap-up new arts centre at the Barbican, with undulating parquetry, a sub-tropical conserva-

tory, and Peggy Ashcroft. The National flooded its stalls with a lavish water spectacle, Alan Ayckbourn's version of the sea-fights the Caesars used to stage in the Colosseum. *Guns and Dolls* challenged comparison with the immortal Brando and Sinatra. Even our footballers escaped their usual ignominy in the World Cup.

As for the unemployed, they could cultivate their gardens (or window-boxes: Voltaire did not foresee the tower-block society). It was a rewarding activity this year. The winter was the coldest since 1895: it was colder one night at Braemar than it was at the South Pole. Eggs froze in the pantry, bulging out of their shells as if untenderly hard-boiled; flocks and villages were buried in snow. A short sharp blizzard, what farmers call "a dripping June to bring all into tune" and then harvest sunshine completed the conditions necessary to fill barns and larders to overflowing.

Less innocent entertainments were also available. The Falklands created an appetite for sensation, and to satisfy it the media turned to the old dependable, royalty. There was good mileage in Pagan, and better in Trevelyan (he had no share in the errors that allowed the former to stroll in on the Queen in her bedroom, but he was the one who resigned, incompetence being excusable, but sexual deviancy not). There were Azine and Mark, there was Koo Stark: falling anything else, anorexia could be given a run.

The most notable sign of political life outside Westminster was not to do with employment, and perhaps not even much to do with the Falklands. It was the growth of the disarmament movement, agitated by the prospect of a new generation of nuclear missiles, and by rough talk from world leaders. Its influence was felt not only at Greenham Common, but also throughout western Europe, and even in the embowered body, the United States Congress.

Mr Brezhnev rattled his sabre for the last time, and died,

deserving the gratitude of us all for having done no more than rattle it. The Moscow-watchers all agreed that a long period of internal manoeuvring and external immobility would follow. Next day a new leader emerged, Yuri Andropov, with his distinctive, dense tone of voice and his air, by Kremlin standards, of being a man in a hurry. With Lech Walesa still leading Jaruzelski's dance, Afghanistan still unsubdued, and a domestic system that could contrive a disastrous harvest even in 1982, he would need to be.

Spain changed governments, entered NATO and opened the gate to Gibraltar. Herr Schmidt was ditched by his friends. Mr Mitterrand reversed course. Dublin had a year of three governments, and Ulster got an assembly it was not sure it wanted. Its terrorists killed bandmen, barmaids and horses indiscriminately, but took slightly fewer scalps than last year. On their knees and at each other's throats, Iran and Iraq continued all year to slaughter the sons of Islam — more of them than the casualties of Lebanon and the Falklands put together.

A Californian humourist faced headache pills with cyanide in the drugstore. Animal rights campaigners sent a bomb to the Prime Minister, forgetting that she is an animal too, and quite possibly a member of an endangered species. A lady from Bristol convinced herself, and some doctors, that she was suffering from a crippling allergy to the whole modern world: it was easy to see her point.

It was the best of times and the worst of times, a year of glitz and hunger, bombs and heroism, blizzards and strawberries, unemployment and frivolity. It was a year that called for immediate reactions — either to declare that the whole mystifying farage brought one out in a rash, or to shrug in the face of it and murmur, like the Pope in Nigeria: "Thanks be to Allah."

George Hill

The Falklands

The little local upset that became a famous victory

March 19: Between 50 and 60 Argentine land on S Georgia. April 2: Argentine invasion. Marines surrender after three-hour battle.

April 3: A Saturday sitting of the House of Commons (the first since 1956).

April 3: UN Security Council passes Resolution 502 calling for an end to hostilities and withdrawal of Argentine troops.

April 5: Task force sails. The Foreign Secretary, Lord Carrington, resigns and is succeeded by Mr Francis Pym.

April 25: Britain recaptures S Georgia.

April 30: The US orders sanctions against Argentina, following the failure of peace talks in which the Secretary of State, Mr Alexander Haig, had played a large part.

May 1: British aircraft bomb Port Stanley airfield; warships shell Argentine positions.

May 2: Argentine cruiser General Belgrano sunk.

May 4: HMS Sheffield hit by Exocet missile, later sinking.

May 20: UN peace efforts break down.

May 21: British troops establish a beachhead at San Carlos.

May 24: HMS Antelope sunk.

May 25: HMS Coventry lost; Atlantic Conveyor hit by Exocet.

May 26: The South Atlantic Fund was set up for families of task force victims; by Dec 9 £14m had been contributed.

May 28: Darwin and Goose Green recaptured; 1,400 prisoners taken.

June 6: Versailles summit of world leaders supports British action.

June 8: Argentine air attack on ships off Bluff Cove leads to many British casualties; 11 enemy aircraft shot down.

June 10: The Falkland Islands Appeal Fund was set up to provide aid for the islanders.

June 12: HMS Glamorgan hit.

June 14: Gaseading General Menéndez's surrender with nearly 10,000 troops to Major-General Jeremy Moore.

June 17: General Galtieri was ousted as President of Argentina; on July 1 he was succeeded by General Bignone.

June 18: Argentina refused to declare formally an end to hostilities.

June 20: The EEC dropped trade sanctions.

June 25: Mr Rex Hunt returned to Port Stanley.

July 6: Lord Frank was appointed Chairman of the Falklands inquiry.

July 12: The US lifted trade sanctions.

July 21: International Commission of Jurists considered that Argentina's claim to the Falklands was "not as empty of merit as British statements imply."

July 21: A Commons Select Committee on Defence investigated the role of the media during the campaign.

July 26: Falklands Islands service at St Paul's Cathedral.

Sept 13: The Falklands Islands Economy Study report — chairman, Lord Shackleton — recommended spending £100m on them over five years.

Sept 14: Both countries lifted financial sanctions.

Sept 29: The US lifted its arms embargo to Argentina.

Oct 11: Among the Falklands awards were two posthumous VC's — Lt-Col H. Jones and Sgt L. McKay.

Oct 12: Victory parade through the City of London.

Nov 5: The UN assembly voted for a renewal of negotiations on the sovereignty of the islands (90 for, including the US; 12 against; 52 abstentions).

Nov 10: The cost of retaking and holding the islands was put at £2,300m.

Nov 11: The bodies of 64 Servicemen whose relations had asked for them to be buried in Britain, arrived at Southampton. The total death toll in the campaign was 237 Servicemen and 18 civilians.

Nov 28: The Foreign Office said that it would look for sites on the islands for the Argentine dead.

Dec 9: Second reading of Bill to give all islanders British citizenship.

Dec 9: £31m aid announced.

December 14: *The Falklands Campaign: The Lessons*, a Government white paper was published, announcing plans to spend more than £1,000m on making good losses in the campaign.

December 16: The Government White Paper, *The Handling of Press and Public Information during the Falklands Conflict* was published; it emphasized the importance of propaganda and the need to influence world public opinion; it noted that arrangements for accrediting journalists to the task force were "haphazard to the point of being farcical."

December 17: The Government endorsed Bank of England loans to Argentina.

Calendar of the year

January

5 At Ipswich, a man found guilty of rape was fined £2,000, the judge ruling that the victim was guilty of "contributory negligence" (see also Jan 20).

13 An Air Florida Boeing 737 crashed in Washington killing 78 people.

20 The Government accepted an amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill compelling judges to jail rapists (see also Dec 14).

21 Mr Nicholas Fairbrairn resigned as Solicitor General for Scotland after his remarks about a Glasgow rape case (see also May 28).

27 The Irish Republic's Fine Gael-Labour coalition led by Dr FitzGerald resigned after a budget defeat (see also Mar 9).

28 The Employment Bill, 1982, was published, it included compensation for workers losing their jobs for refusing to join a union.

31 Thirteen West German youths were killed in an avalanche in Salzburg province.

February

5 Laker Airways collapsed.

7 Dr Neil Agerri was found hanged in his cell in Johannesburg, the verdict on Dec 21 was suicide.

12 Fifteen men lost their lives when the Greek ship Victory sank 300 miles west of Land's End.

15 The crew of 84 on the oil rig Ocean Ranger lost their lives when it sank 60 miles off St John's, Newfoundland.

An avalanche on Ben Nevis killed three people.

18 Mr Joshua Nkomo was dismissed from his post in Mr Mugabe's government.

The S. African frigate President Kruger sank 80 miles off Cape Point after a collision with a tanker, and 13 of the crew lost their lives.

19 The Court of Appeal ruled (McKay v Essex Area Health Authority) that a child had no rights to sue for being allowed to be born deformed.

March

24 Greenland, in a referendum, voted to withdraw from the EEC.

25 The European Court ruled that parents could forbid their children to be beaten at school.

27 The D'Oyley Carte company played its last performance, *HMS Pinafore*, at the Adelphi Theatre.

Details were announced of the creation of a new home guard — the Home Service Force.

The Queen opened the Barbican Centre.

In the Belfast South by-election the Rev M. Smyth held the seat for the Official Unionists.

Protests of fraud in the re-election of Guatemala's military regime were crushed; on March 12 a massacre of about 200 people was reported.

The Budget, petrol, road and tobacco taxes increased; tax allowances and special benefits increased.

Mr Charles Haughey (Fine Gael) was elected Prime Minister of the Irish Republic, replacing Dr Garret FitzGerald (Fine Gael) (see also Nov 4 and Nov 25).

Announcement of the Government's decision to replace Polaris with the US Trident 2 at a cost of £7,500m.

In the French Alps, 11 skiers were killed by avalanches.

An 11-year-old boy was killed by an IRA bomb at Banbridge, Co Down.

Mr Harold Evans resigned as Editor of *The Times*; he was succeeded by Mr Charles Douglas-Horne.

A South African raid in Angola, in which 201 Swapo guerrillas were killed, was reported.

The Police Federation called for the reintroduction of capital punishment.

Three prison officers were acquitted of the murder of Mr Barry Prosser at Winslow Green Prison, Birmingham, on August 18, 1980.

English cricketers playing against a South African team were banned from Test cricket for three years.

The Free Church Federal Council and the British

April

Council of Churches gave their approval to fertilization outside the womb, provided that the egg and the sperm came from the couple concerned.

An army coup led by General Efraim Montt overthrew the government of President Garcia in Guatemala.

After a military coup in Bangladesh, led by General Ershad, Mr Fazl Choudhury was appointed president in the place of Mr Sattar.

In the Glasgow, Hillhead, by-election Mr Roy Jenkins easily won the seat for the SDP-Liberal Alliance.

With the shooting of three soldiers in N Ireland, the number of soldiers killed there rose to 348 and the total death toll to 2,187 since 1969.

Amidst heavy fighting, El Salvador held its first

elections in 50 years; in America, London and Berlin thousands demonstrated against American policy in that country; on May 2, Alvaro Magaña became president.

The final report of the Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission was published.

The prison inspectorate's first report said many prisons were "degrading and brutalizing".

Chariots of Fire won four Oscars.

Government changes: Lord Carrington, Foreign Secretary resigned and was replaced by Mr Francis Pym.

In West Germany nearly half a million people joined in protest against the deployment of US missiles in Europe.

May

Ford banned the sale of right hand drive cars in West Germany; on Aug 9: the

European Commission ordered the company to lift the ban.

Over 11,000 people were arrested in violent Solidarity demonstrations in Poland.

The Government announced a 6 per cent pay increase for doctors, dentists, civil servants and the Forces.

The House of Lords awarded Mrs. Rodina McLaughlin damages for shock caused by injuries sustained in a crash by her family.

The House of Commons voted against a return of the death penalty.

Health service workers began industrial action in support of a pay offer better than 4 to 6.4 per cent on the 19th, a national one-day strike, supported by the TUC, took place.

Two more sectarian murders in Northern Ireland took place.

A Tribunal of Inquiry into the operations of the Crown Agents said that its losses of £180m were "due to incompetence".

Aston Villa won the European Cup beating Bayern Munich 1-0.

In the Beaconsfield by-election, Conservative held the seat with a reduced majority.

Pope John Paul II arrived at Gatwick Airport; he arrived in Scotland on the 31st, and left for Rome from Wales on June 2.

Four women from the peace camp at Greenham Common, near Newbury, were sentenced to seven days' imprisonment; on Dec 12, 30,000 women surrounded the site.

In a private prosecution in Scotland, a youth was sentenced to 12 years in an institution for rape.

Spain became the 16th member of Nato.

The Lebanon

War and massacre: a nation in anguish

April 11 Mr Yasser Arafat challenged the Israelis to invade Lebanon.

April 21 Israeli jets bombed Lebanon.

June 3 Mr Shlomo Argov, the Israeli ambassador to Britain, shot in London.

June 4 Israel launched a massive air attack near Beirut; Palestinians made rocket attacks against northern Israel.

June 6 Israel invaded southern Lebanon; Syrian forces were engaged.

June 7 The UN Security Council unanimously called for Israel's withdrawal.

June 9 The US vetoed a UN Security Council resolution condemning Israel.

June 11 A ceasefire came into effect; it broke down on the 13th when Israeli troops isolated west Beirut.

June 16 The PLO announced it would lay down its arms in return for direct negotiations with the US.

June 18 A ceasefire; Mr Philip Habib, US special envoy, held talks with President Sarkis.

July 17 Israel gave the 6,000

Palestinians in Beirut 30 days to leave.

July 25 The PLO agreed to accept the UN resolution 242 — recognition of Israel — in return for American recognition of the PLO; the White House rejected the offer.

Aug 2 Israel entered central Beirut.

Aug 12 A 10-hour Israeli air attack on Palestinian camps in West Beirut; a split Israeli Cabinet called a halt to the bombing.

Aug 22 The evacuation of Palestinian guerrillas began.

Aug 23 Bashir Geryani elected President of Lebanon; on Sept 14 he was killed in a bomb explosion.

Aug 25 American forces supervised the PLO evacuation to Syria; French and Italian troops took up positions in Beirut.

Aug 30 Mr Yasser Arafat left Beirut.

Sept 1 President Reagan called for a Palestinian state linked with Jordan.

Sept 15 Israeli troops advanced into West Beirut.

Sept 16 Christian Phalangist forces began sweeping camps in West Beirut; a massacre of men, women and children took place in the Chabra and Chatila refugee camp.

Sept 23 Mr Amin Gemayel was installed as President of Lebanon.

Sept 28 Israeli left Beirut; Mr Begin agreed to hold an inquiry into the massacre (see also Oct 3).

Oct 3 Six Israeli soldiers were killed in an ambush 12 miles SE of Beirut; Mr Yitzhak Rabin was named as the head of three-member inquiry commission (see also the 19th).

Oct 14 Israeli troops intervened in fighting between Phalangists and Druze Arabs.

Oct 19 The inquiry into the Beirut massacre opened; Mr Begin testified on Nov 8.

Nov 11 In Tyre, 89 people — some Israeli soldiers — were killed when a bomb exploded in the military HQ.

June 21 Lebanon death toll estimated at 14,000; some dissent on the invasion was voiced in Israel.

June 22 Another ceasefire; renewed fighting the following day.

July 5 Militiamen from the Christian Phalangists controlled by Major Haddad occupied half of Lebanon.

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هكذا زمن الاجل

all closed to amateur ethics - still dominated. Walter Winterbottom, in football, and Geoff Dyson, in athletics, internationally respected coaches, were not master of their own domain.

When, in April, 1962 I overheard Major Wilson Keys, chairman of West Bromwich Albion say that he would ensure that Johnny Bryn, of West Ham, would not go to the World Cup, and that a shot over the bar from which the penalty was missed, I felt he was going too far. I know now he was not.

We handed the game over to the pros and what did we get? The percentage player and the professional foul.

One more dilemma was little different from those today confronting the Rugby Union over sponsors' boot money, and athletics, where we often do not know who is running to win and who to parade his sponsors logo. The incorrect solution to either could be said to dire as it has been for soccer.

Tomorrow: David Miller on World Cup cynicism.

OPINION **DAVID MILLER**

When, in April, 1962 I overheard Major Wilson Keys, chairman of West Bromwich Albion say that he would ensue that Johnny Brynwr, of West Ham, would not go to the World Cup, for punching a shot over the bar from which the penalty was missed, I felt he was going too far. I know now he was not.

We had a game over to the pros and what did we get? The professional player and the professional foul.

The moral dilemma was little different from those today confronting the Rugby Union over sponsors' boot money, and athletics, where we often do not know who is running to win and who to parade to the sports logo.

The moral solution to either problem could be as dire as it has been for soccer.

Tomorrow: David Miller on World Cup cynicism.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Falkirk v Raith (22.07)
Queen's Park v Partick
St Johnstone v Partick

Scottish second division

Aberdeen v Brechin
East Fife v Berwick
Montrose v Perth

Musselburgh v E Rirlington
Stirling v Cowdenburn (22.09)

Strenuous & Liable

Alloa Athletic v Leven
Bangor, Barrac, v Dundee Albion
Enfield, Fife, v Scarthoorn (7.30)
Glasgow City v Northwich Victoria
Telford, Nanterton v Bedford
(7.30), Worcester v Storton

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Grimsby v
Hull City (Midweek) Luton v Walsley
v King's Lynn, Morecambe v Motherwell,
Mossley v South Liverpool, Oswestry v Buxton
(8.00), Rochdale v Tamesworth, Warrington v Macclesfield
Warrington v Gateshead, Workson v Eyre
(7.30).

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Bristol Rovers v
Swindon, Luton v Fulham (21.15); Southampton
v Leicester, Swindon v Reading.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Crawley District vs
Lamington v Milway, Bathurst v Alvechurch,
Bosport v Aylesford, Bromley v Maidstone,
Coventry v Addlestone and Wealdstone;
Dartford v Maidstone, Maidstone v Harlow,
Rochester v Poole, Gravesend and Northfleet v
Haslingwood, Maidstone Harriers v
South Kent, Maidstone v Dartford, Woodville
vs Ipswich, Maidstone District vs Milton Tyndal
South Kent v Maidstone v Brentford.
Southern district: Woodville v Hatfield.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Princes Risborough
Bletchley v Quorn; Bromley v Hitchin; Harrow
vs Herts, Herts vs Gillingham, Gillingham
vs Hampton.

ICE HOCKEY:
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Thursday, Washington

<p> BRITISH COLUMBIA Vancouver 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 83</p>
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RACING

Set fair for Lucky Vane in National test

By Michael Phillips, Racing Correspondent

The weather continues to smile on the National Hunt racing. Not one of the first division of the National Hunt racing has been lost and there is a full house of meetings again today with Cheltenham taking pride of place. Run over four miles, the New Year Handicap Steeplechase will afford budding Grand National candidates an opportunity to reveal their stamina and it is not difficult to envisage Lucky Vane passing this test with flying colours, especially as he has already won over this extreme distance at Cheltenham.

After Lucky Vane had won at Worcester last month his trainer Toby Balding said that he was just the type to win the Grand National one day, and having trained Highland Wedding to do just that he is in a better position than most to judge.

It was out and out stamina that enabled Lucky Vane to wear down Bonum Omen at Worcester and now that Bonum Omen has been penalized for winning at Warwick last week my selection should still have the edge.

Since winning at Worcester Lucky Vane has been beaten by Port Askaig at Devon and there is a lot of hard to envisage Port Askaig doing that again now that he will be meeting Lucky Vane on a stone worse terms. That for three lengths is a considerable disadvantage.

There is a good chance of a Cheltenham trifle for John Francome and Fred Winter, who began the New Year in much the same way they finished the old, on a triumphant note.

When Admiral's Cup won his third race in a row at Newbury on Saturday he endorsed the view that Winter had gathered together a collection of very promising young

horses and now I suspect Alex Wild to emphasize the point by winning the first division of the Malvern Novices Hurdle in the presence of his American owner Mrs Miles Valentine, who has been an ardent supporter of jumping on both sides of the Atlantic for a considerable time.

Plundering and Conquering, the other horses that Mrs Valentine has in training with Winter, are also reminding the audience that they are not able to cope with Kallias Lad (1.20) and Our Fun (3.40) this time.

Kathie Lad ran well enough against Omen and Winter last in the Kennedy Construction Gold Cup to suggest that the Leckhampton Novices Steeplechase could be well worth his owner's even though the late night Extra, Borden Day and Plundering are in opposition.

Conquering will surely have to be something out of the ordinary if he is to beat Our Fun, but the bumpers in Ireland before John Gifford spent 32,000 guineas buying him at Doncaster in August.

However, Wallow Will and News King can get the Water-Franchise bandwagon back on the winning trail by taking the Steel Plate Trial Hurdle and the Fairford Handicap Steeplechase.

David Nicholson will be at Leicester to make sure that Connaught River behaves properly before the start of the Wigston Hurdle, but his amateur jockey Cheltenham to ride Gainsay in the Steel Plate Hurdle. Here I prefer Wallow Will who impressed me when he won his last race at Kempton where he experienced a lot of interference from a riderless horse and still won easily.

In going for News King to beat Rathgorman in the Fairford Handicap I am opposing not only a horse trained by that seemingly invincible character, Michael Dickinson, but also the one who claimed the Two-Mile Hurdle by winning the Queen Mother Steeplechase by a colossal margin over today's course and distance last March.

Yet it should also be borne in mind that Winter's stable is in form and that he deliberately let News King miss what appeared to be an easier opportunity at Newbury on Saturday in order to wait for this race. News King is fit and fresh following that international race with Classified and Artifice at Sandown at the beginning of last month whereas Rathgorman might be feeling the effects of his hard and long season, especially with Little Bay at Wetherby a week ago.

Cheltenham

Totals: Double 1.55, 3.05; Treble 1.20, 2.30, 3.40.

(Television: BBC1) 12.45, 1.20, 1.55 and 2.30 races

12.45 MALVERN HURDLE (Div 1) (Novices: £1,421; 2m) (11 runners)
103 21 ACER WILD (F) (Wm Valentine) F 5-11-5 J. Gifford 5-11-5 P. Balding
104 40/100 LEXHAM VANE (F) (P. Balding) F 5-11-5 J. Gifford 5-11-5 P. Balding
105 100/100 LEXHAM VANE (F) (P. Balding) F 5-11-5 J. Gifford 5-11-5 P. Balding
106 100/100 LEXHAM VANE (F) (P. Balding) F 5-11-5 J. Gifford 5-11-5 P. Balding
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